Hirohiko
Araki

JOJO'S BIZARRE ADVENTURE

Part 7

STEEL BALL RUN

2

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by Hirohiko Araki

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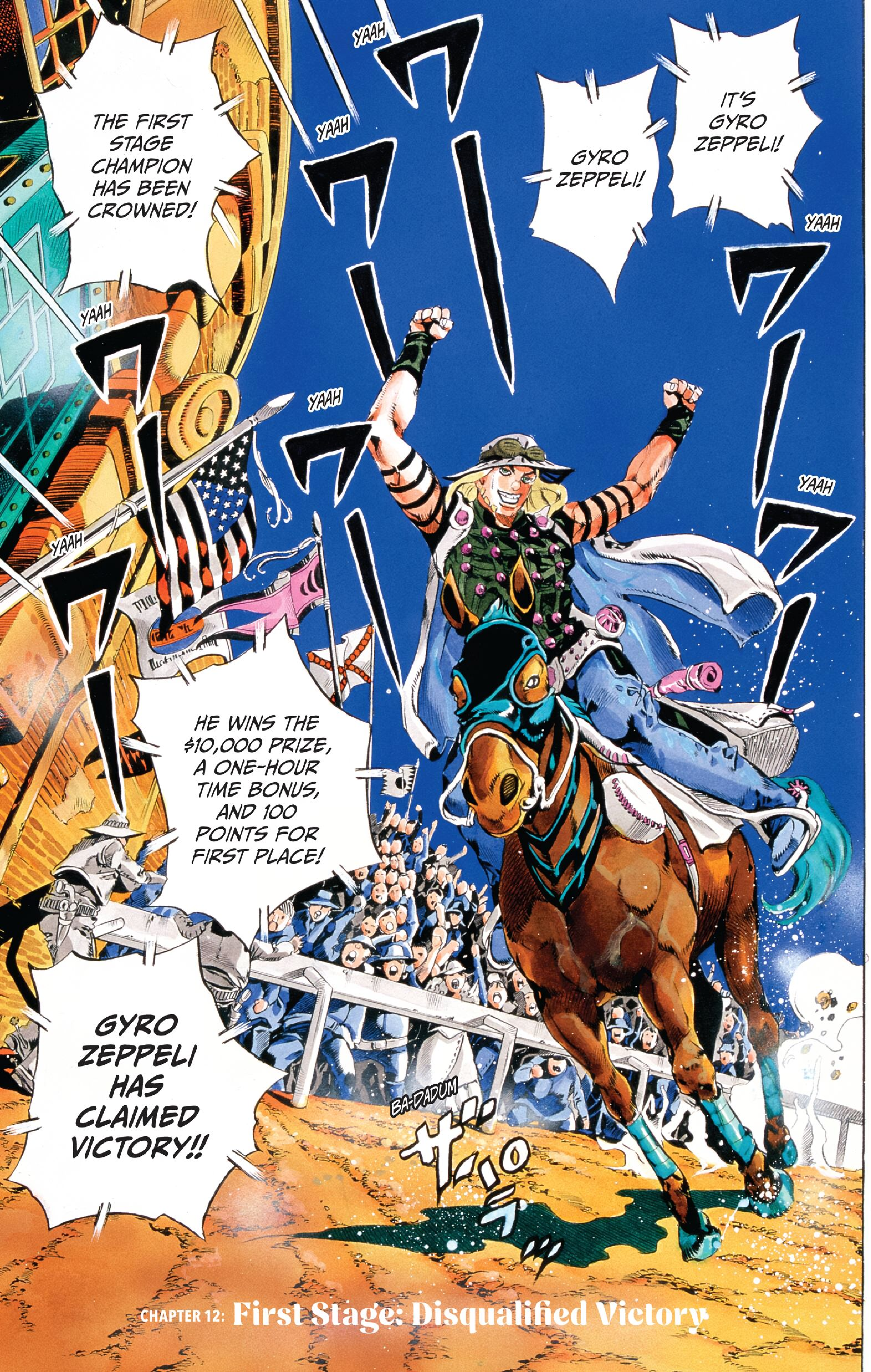
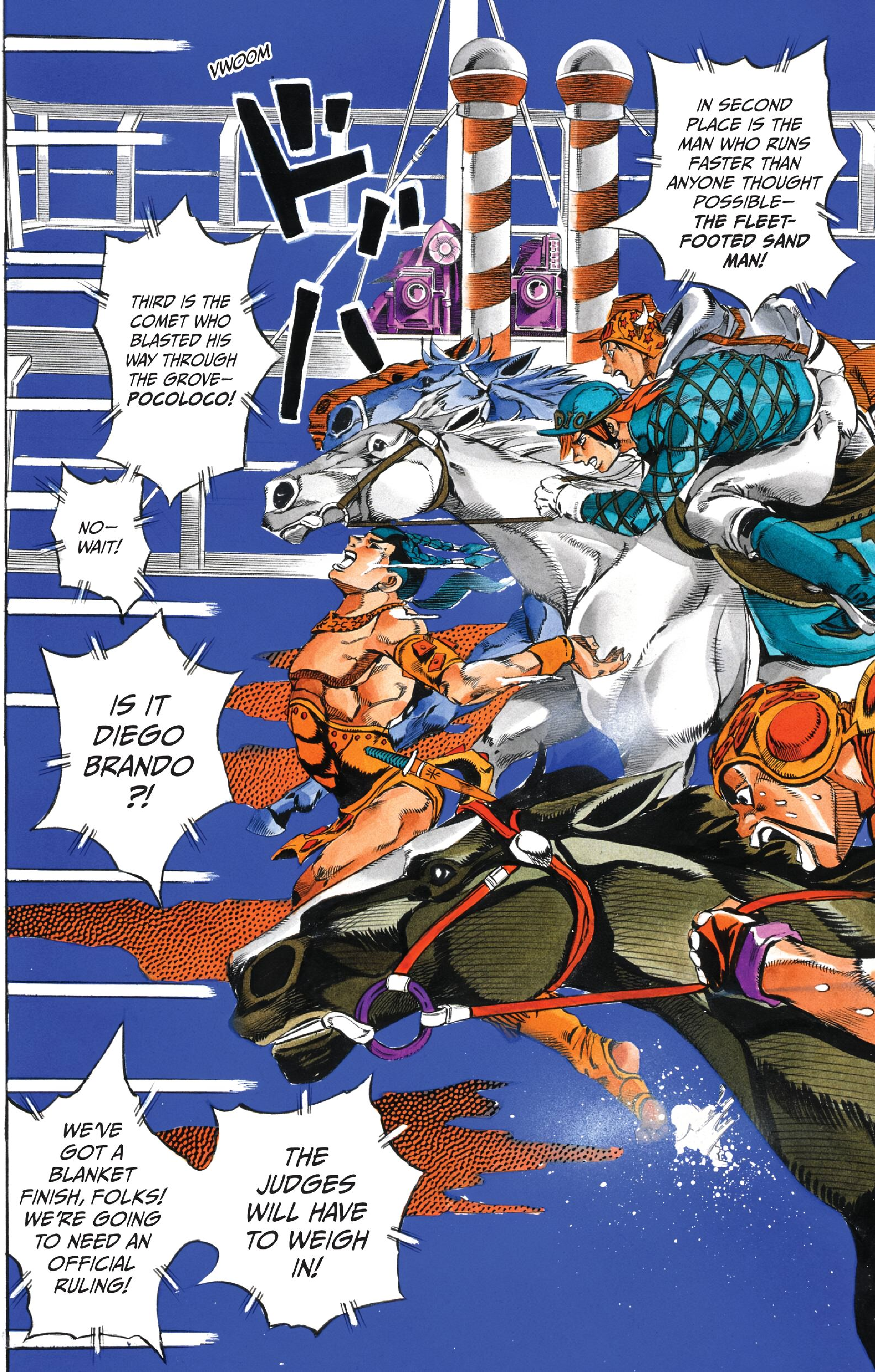
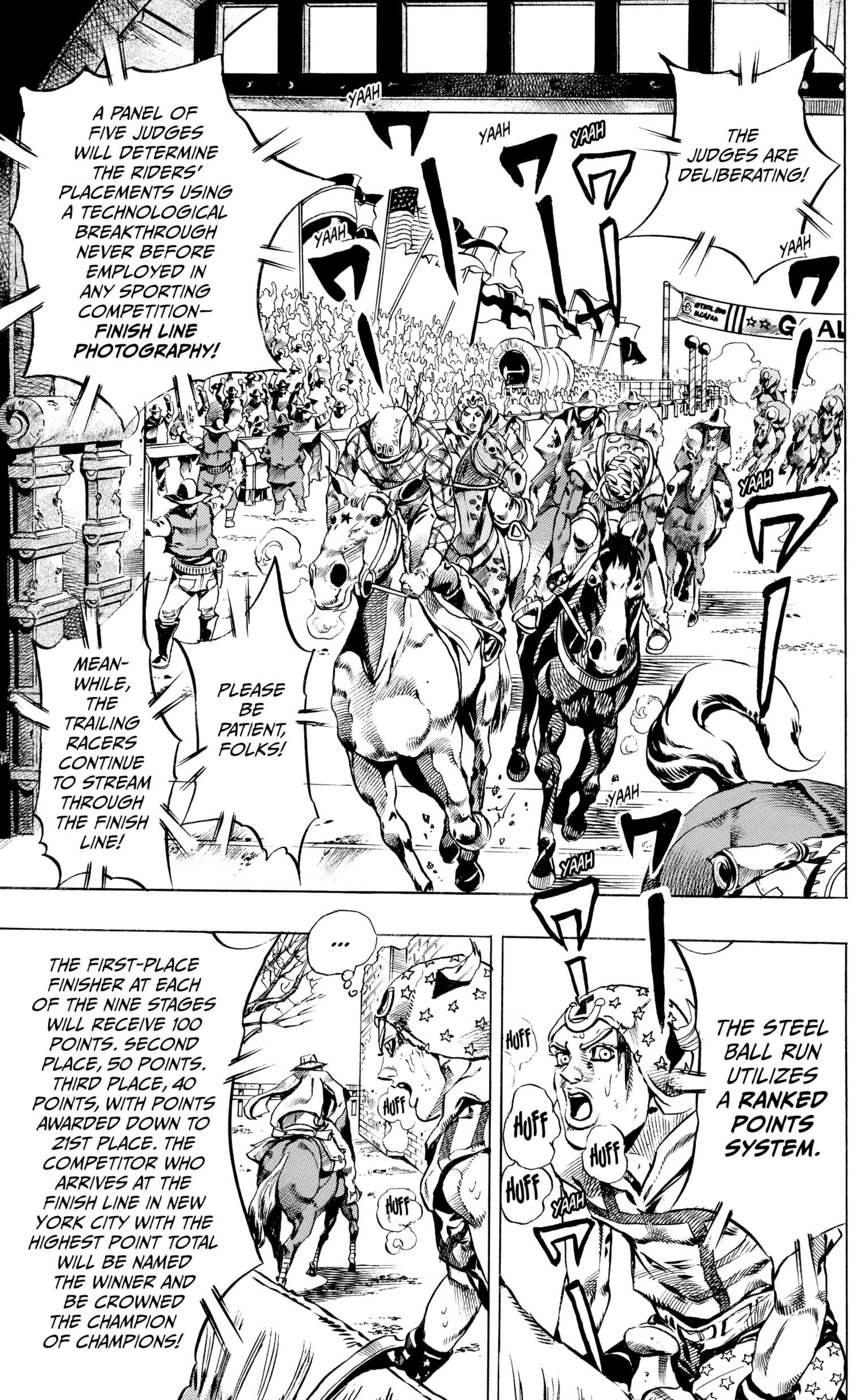

YAAH
ワーー
YAAH
ワーー
YAAH
ワーー
IT'S GYRO ZEPPELI!
GYRO ZEPPELI!
YAAH
ワーー
YAAH
ワーー
YAAH
ワーー
THE FIRST STAGE CHAMPION HAS BEEN CROWNED!
HE WINS THE $10,000 PRIZE, A ONE-HOUR TIME BONUS, AND 100 POINTS FOR FIRST PLACE!
GYRO ZEPPELI HAS CLAIMED VICTORY!!
BA-DADUM
ザッ

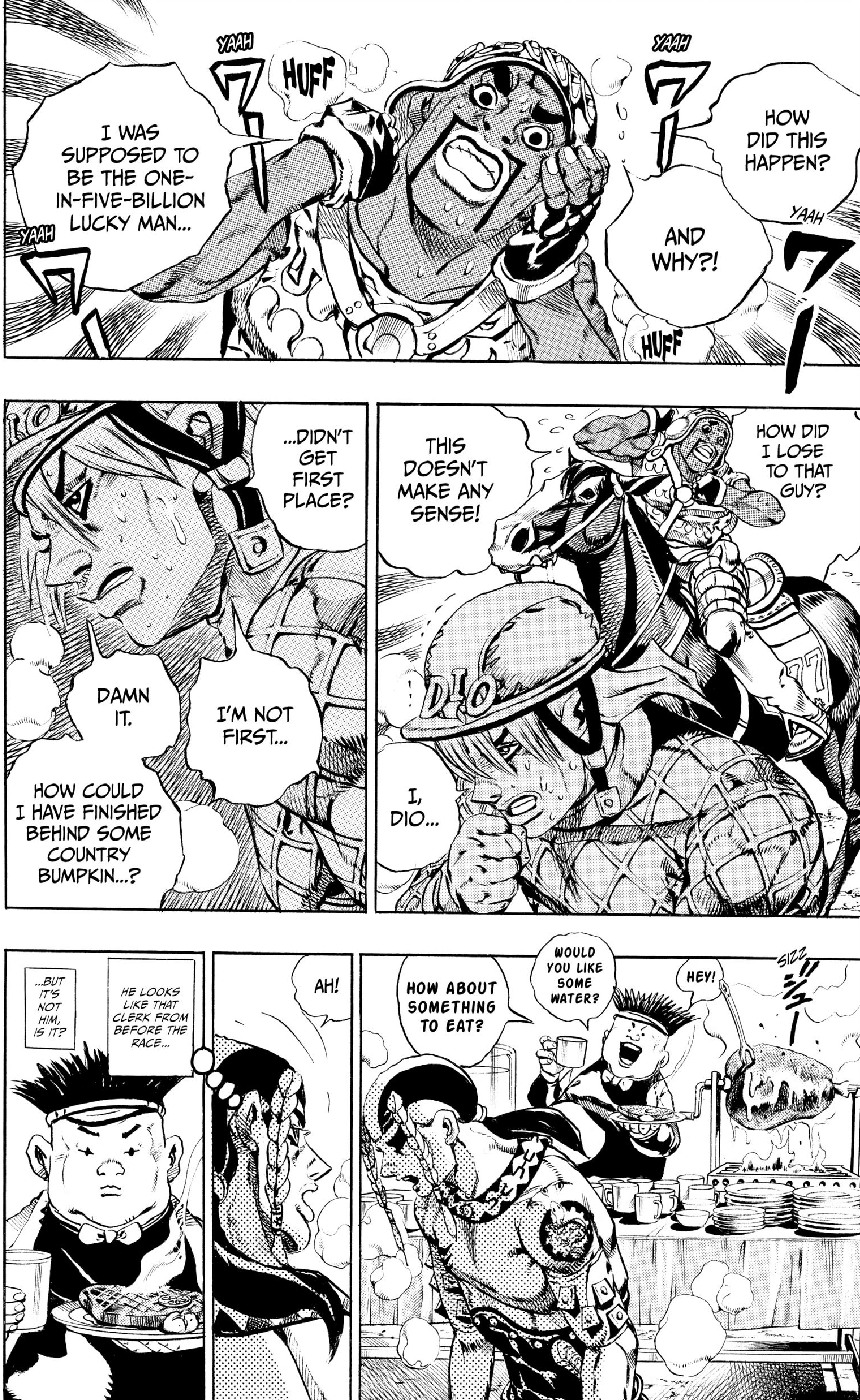
CHAPTER 12: First Stage: Disqualified Victory

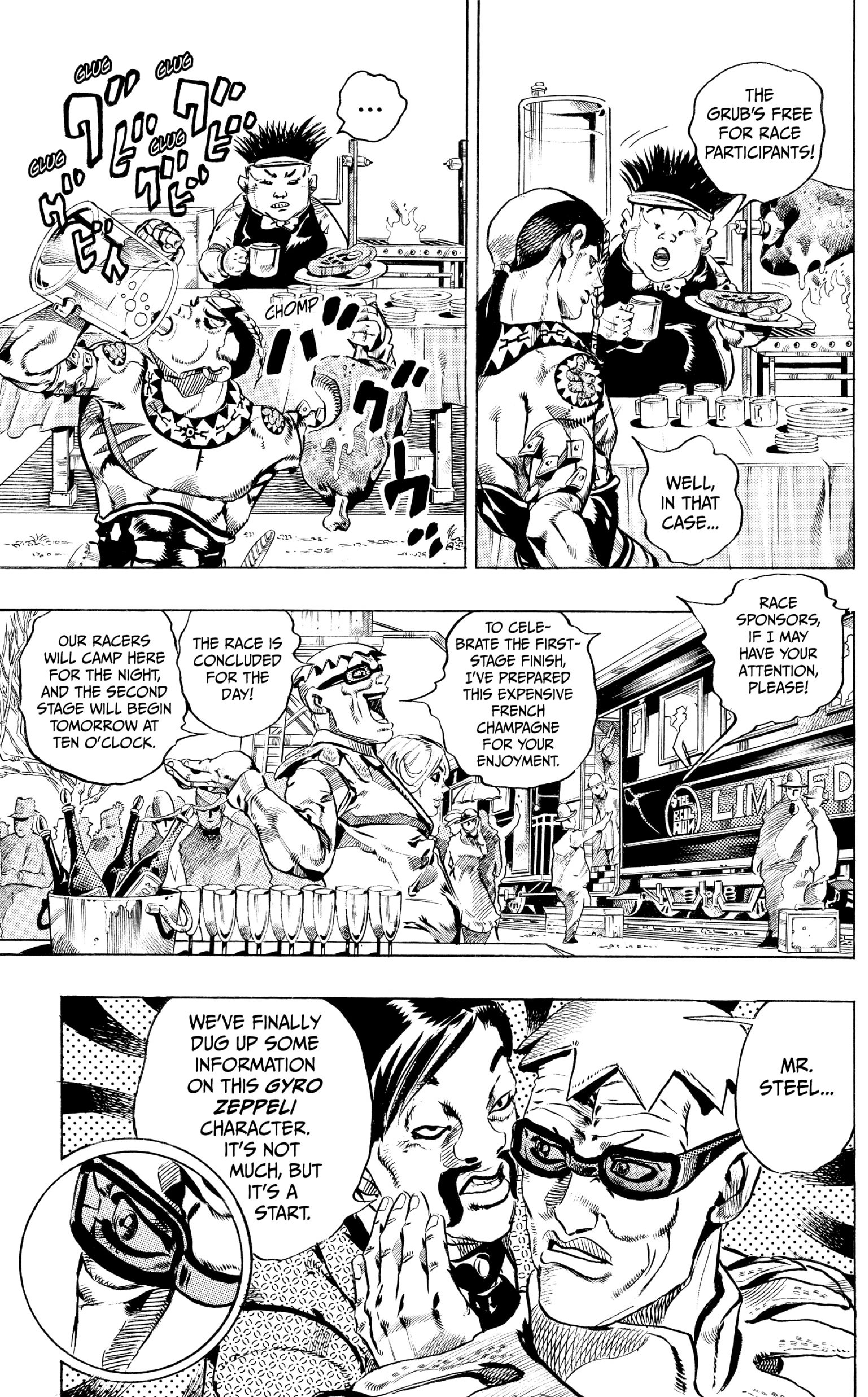
CHAPTER 1 :

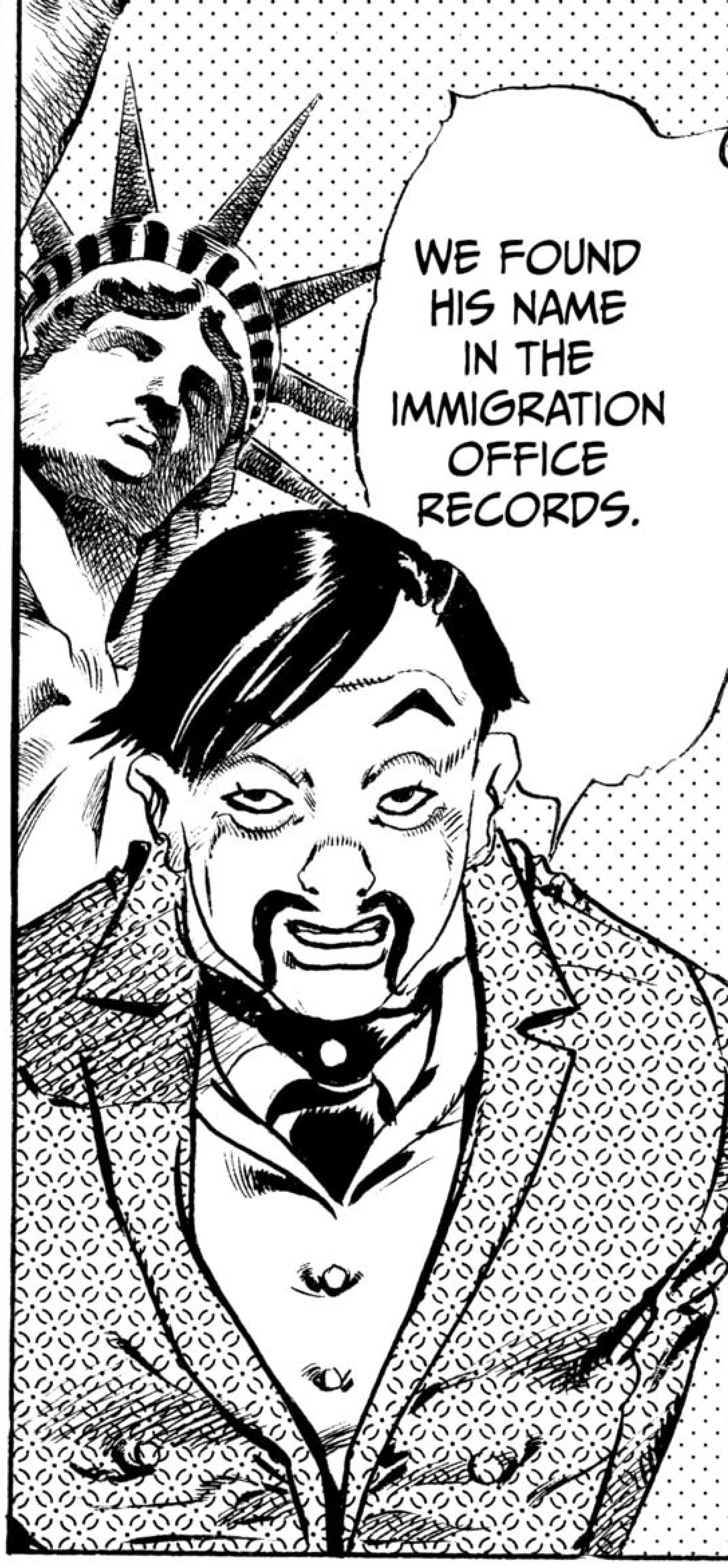
First Stage: Disqualified Victory

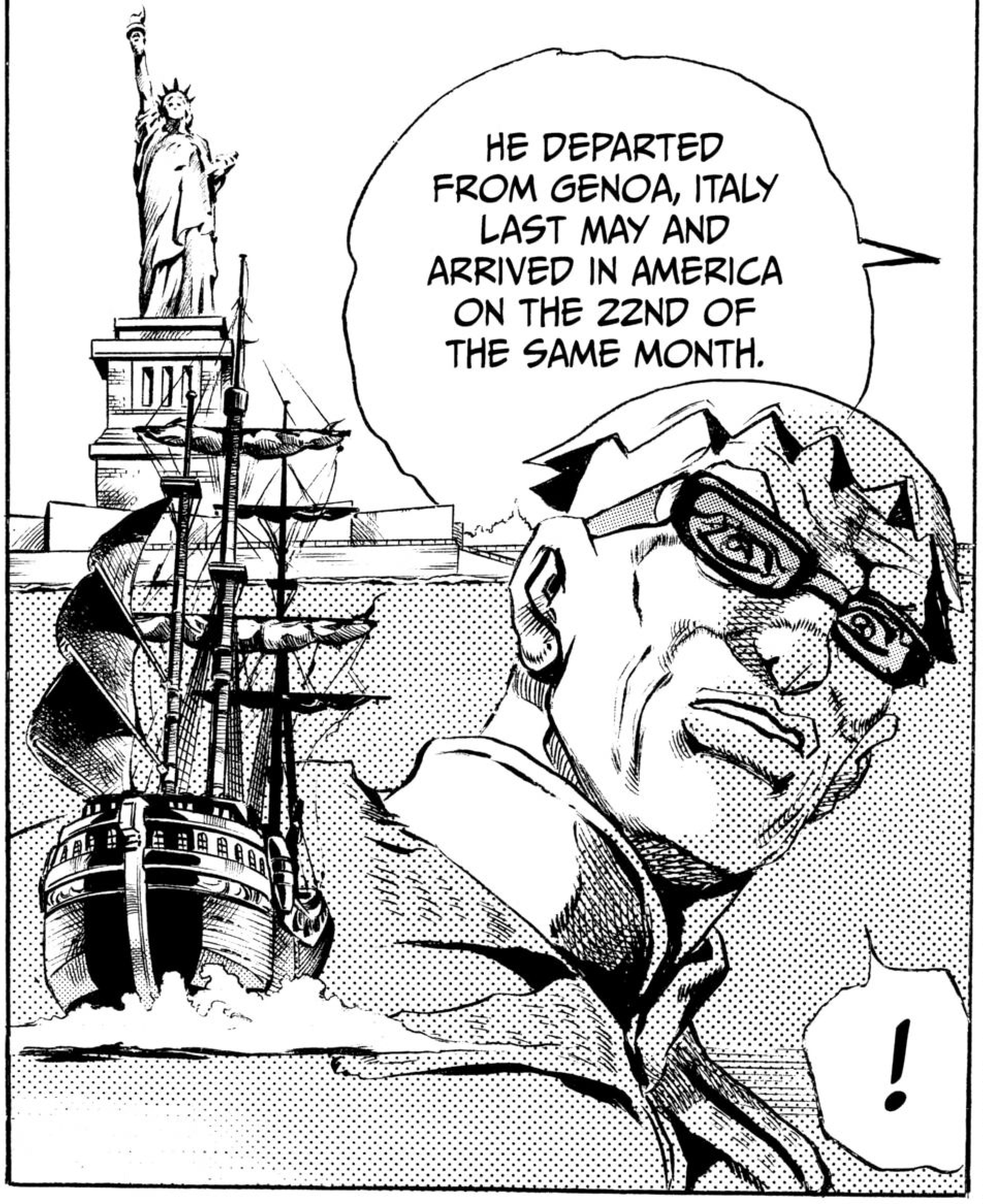

VWOOM
ドドド
IN SECOND PLACE IS THE MAN WHO RUNS FASTER THAN ANYONE THOUGHT POSSIBLE— THE FLEET-FOOTED SAND MAN!
THIRD IS THE COMET WHO BLASTED HIS WAY THROUGH THE GROVE— POCOLOCO!
NO— WAIT!
IS IT DIEGO BRANDO ?!
DIO
THE JUDGES WILL HAVE TO WEIGH IN!
WE'VE GOT A BLANKET FINISH, FOLKS! WE'RE GOING TO NEED AN OFFICIAL RULING!

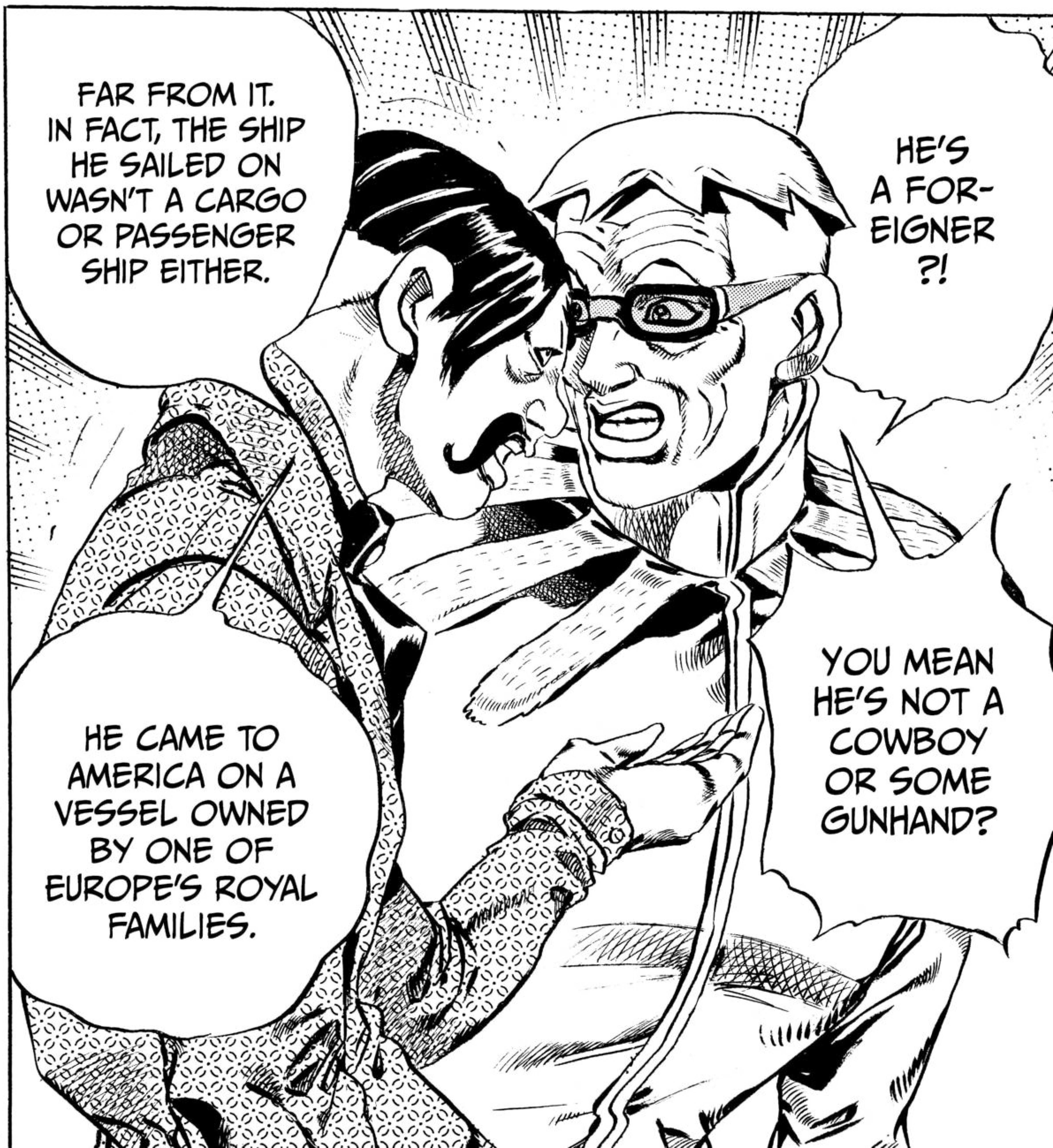

YAAH
THE JUDGES ARE DELIBERATING!
YAAH
YAAH
YAAH
A PANEL OF FIVE JUDGES WILL DETERMINE THE RIDERS' PLACEMENTS USING A TECHNOLOGICAL BREAKTHROUGH NEVER BEFORE EMPLOYED IN ANY SPORTING COMPETITION—**FINISH LINE PHOTOGRAPHY!**
YAAH
GOAL
YAAH
YAAH
YAAH
PLEASE BE PATIENT, FOLKS!
MEANWHILE, THE TRAILING RACERS CONTINUE TO STREAM THROUGH THE FINISH LINE!
THE STEEL BALL RUN UTILIZES A **RANKED POINTS SYSTEM.**
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
YAAH
...
HUFF
HUFF
THE FIRST-PLACE FINISHER AT EACH OF THE NINE STAGES WILL RECEIVE 100 POINTS. SECOND PLACE, 50 POINTS. THIRD PLACE, 40 POINTS, WITH POINTS AWARDED DOWN TO 21ST PLACE. THE COMPETITOR WHO ARRIVES AT THE FINISH LINE IN NEW YORK CITY WITH THE HIGHEST POINT TOTAL WILL BE NAMED THE WINNER AND BE CROWNED THE CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS!

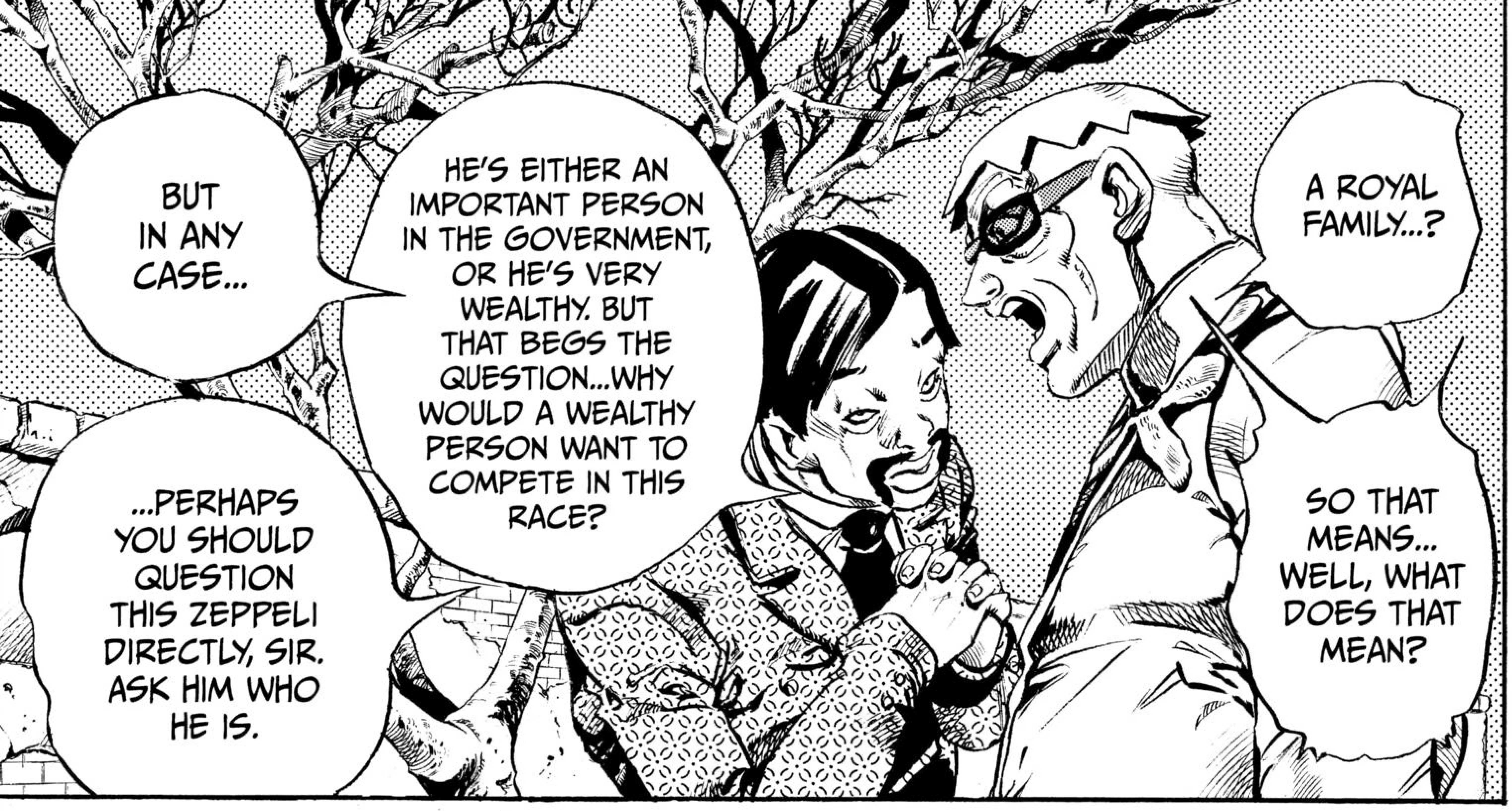

YAAH
HUFF
HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?
AND WHY?!
YAAH
YAAH
I WAS SUPPOSED TO BE THE ONE-IN-FIVE-BILLION LUCKY MAN...
YAAH
HUFF
HOW DID I LOSE TO THAT GUY?
THIS DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE!
I, DIO...
...DIDN'T GET FIRST PLACE?
I'M NOT FIRST...
DAMN IT.
HOW COULD I HAVE FINISHED BEHIND SOME COUNTRY BUMPKIN...?
SIZZ
HEY!
WOULD YOU LIKE SOME WATER?
HOW ABOUT SOMETHING TO EAT?
AH!
HE LOOKS LIKE THAT CLERK FROM BEFORE THE RACE...
...BUT IT'S NOT HIM, IS IT?

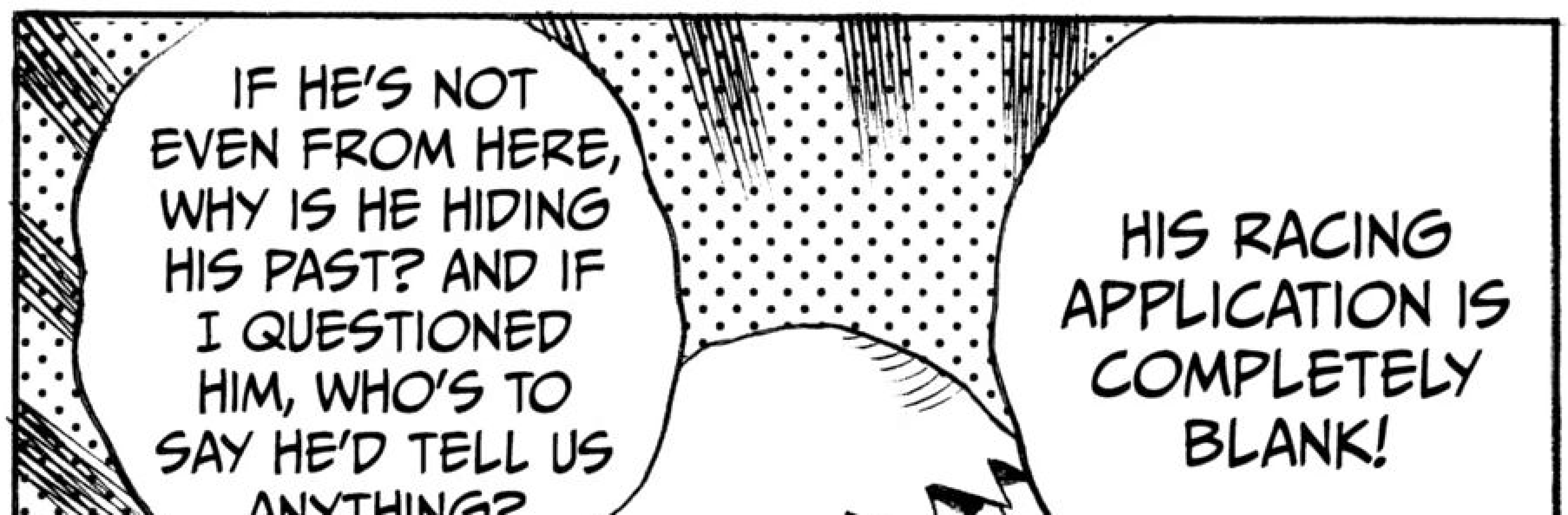

THE GRUB'S FREE FOR RACE PARTICIPANTS!
WELL, IN THAT CASE...
...
CLUG
CLUG
CLUG
CLUG
CHOMP
RACE SPONSORS, IF I MAY HAVE YOUR ATTENTION, PLEASE!
TO CELEBRATE THE FIRST-STAGE FINISH, I'VE PREPARED THIS EXPENSIVE FRENCH CHAMPAGNE FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT.
THE RACE IS CONCLUDED FOR THE DAY!
OUR RACERS WILL CAMP HERE FOR THE NIGHT, AND THE SECOND STAGE WILL BEGIN TOMORROW AT TEN O'CLOCK.
LIMITED
MR. STEEL...
WE'VE FINALLY DUG UP SOME INFORMATION ON THIS *GYRO ZEPPELI* CHARACTER. IT'S NOT MUCH, BUT IT'S A START.

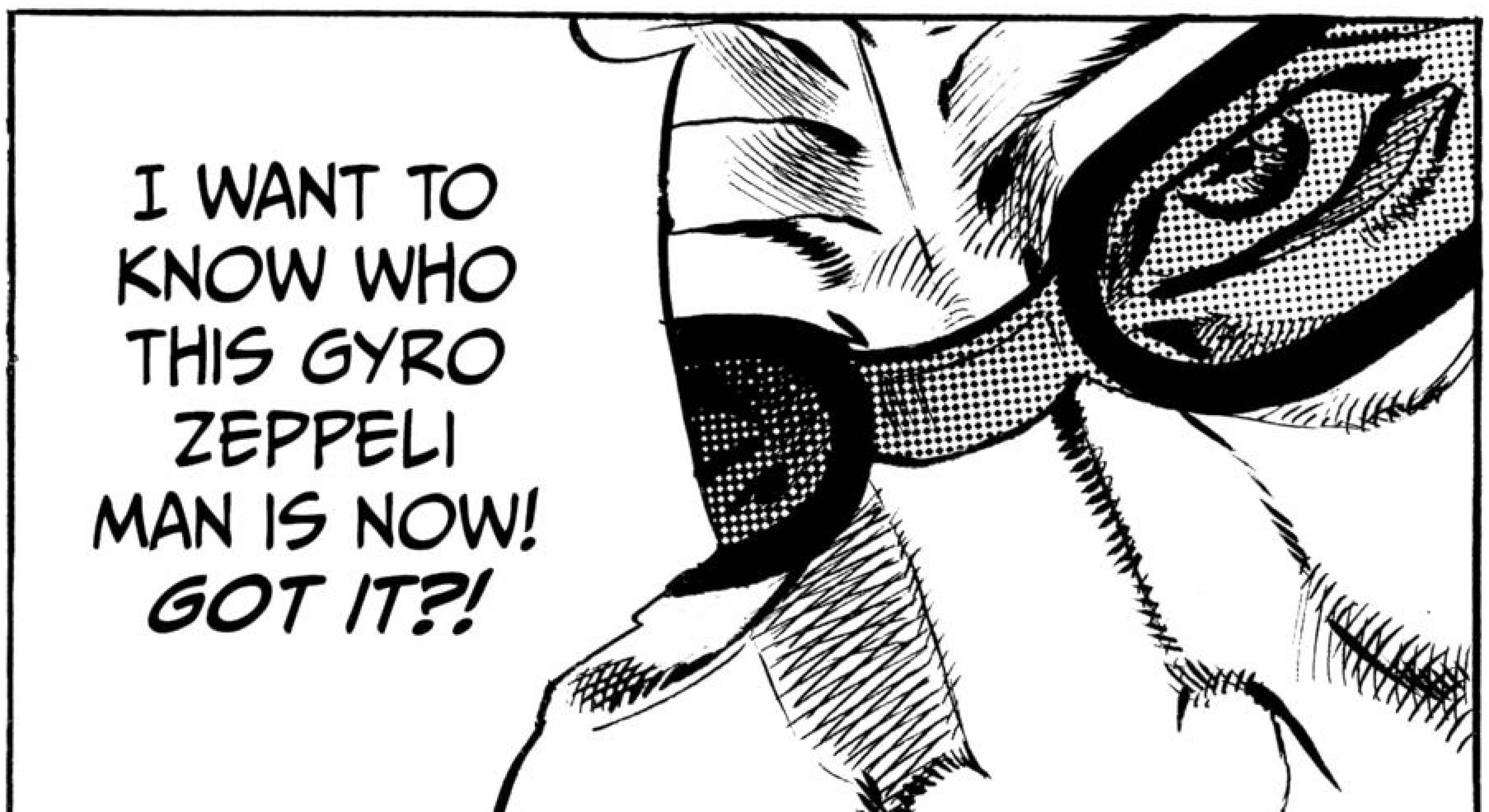

WE FOUND HIS NAME IN THE IMMIGRATION OFFICE RECORDS.

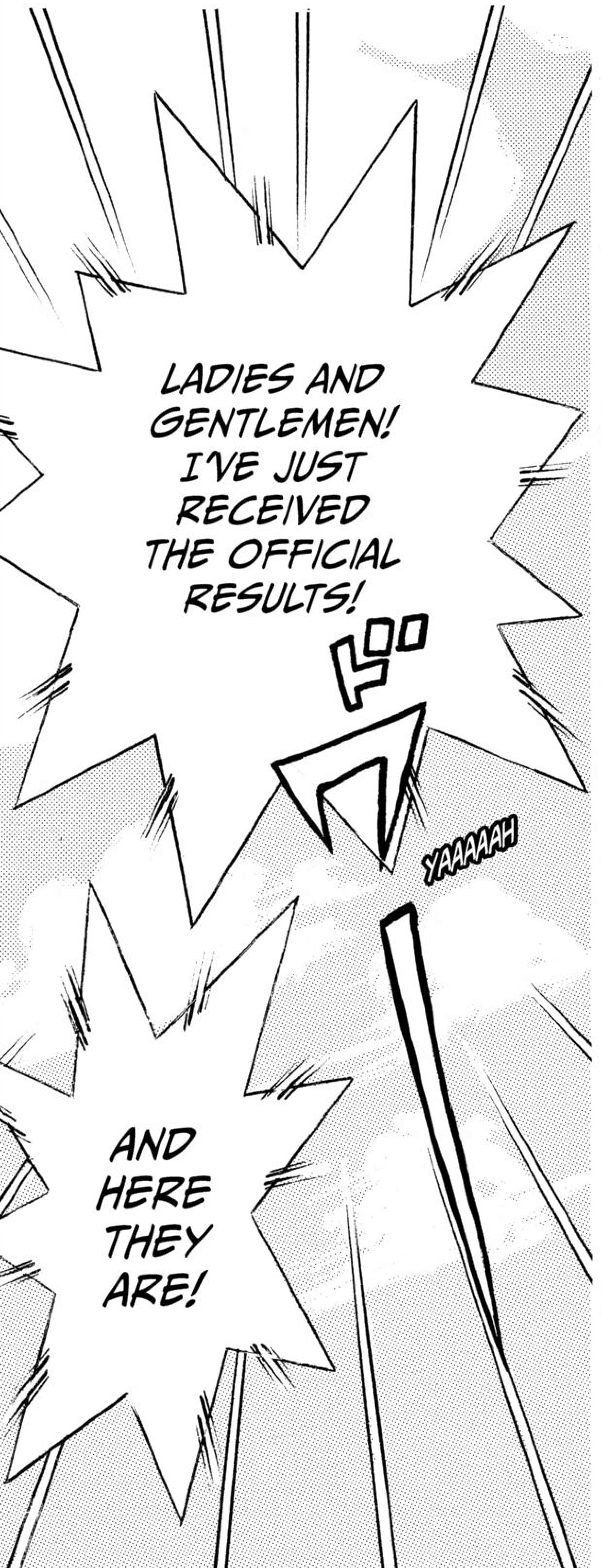

HE DEPARTED FROM GENOA, ITALY LAST MAY AND ARRIVED IN AMERICA ON THE 22ND OF THE SAME MONTH.
!

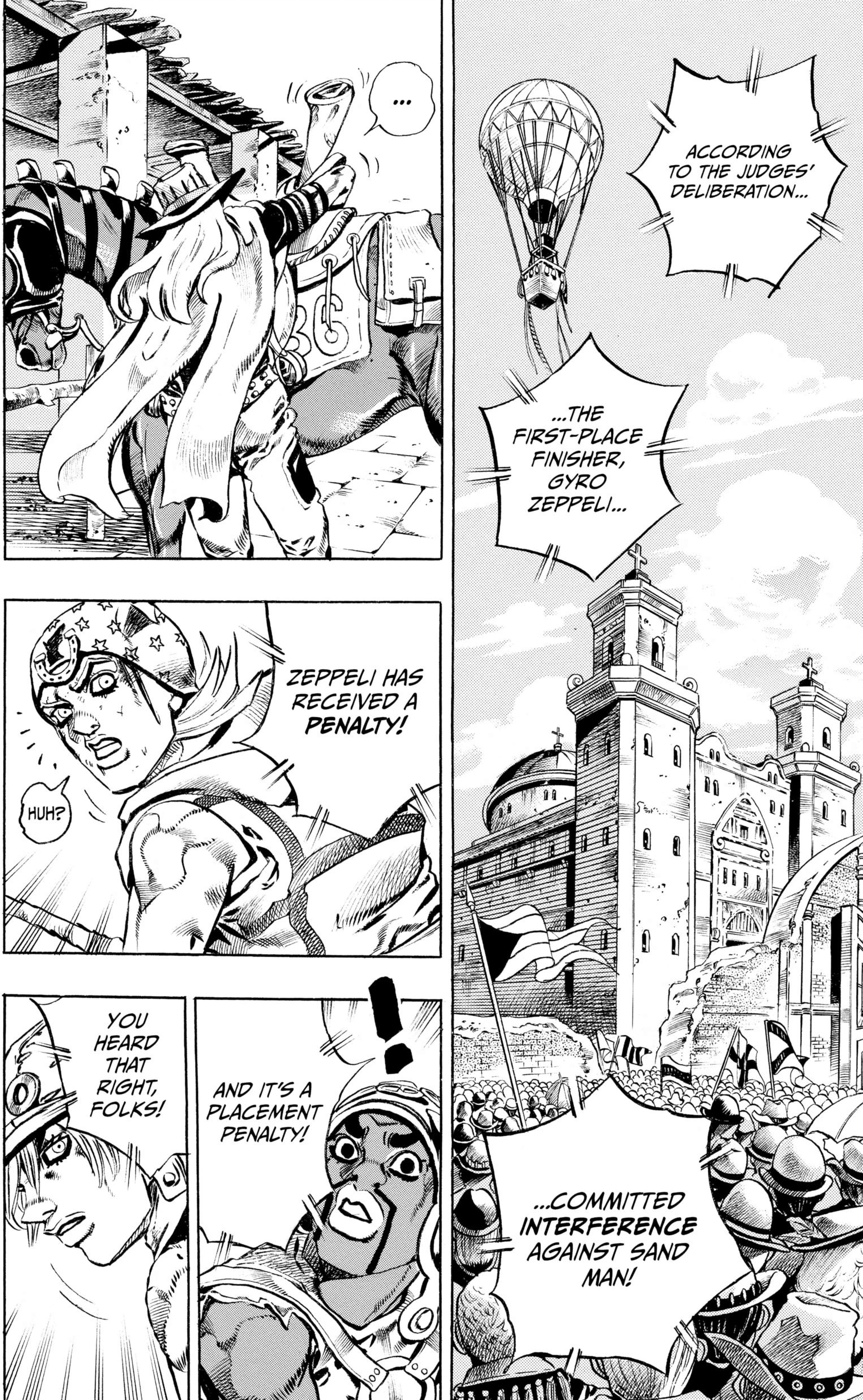

HE'S A FOREIGNER?!
YOU MEAN HE'S NOT A COWBOY OR SOME GUNHAND?
FAR FROM IT. IN FACT, THE SHIP HE SAILED ON WASN'T A CARGO OR PASSENGER SHIP EITHER.
HE CAME TO AMERICA ON A VESSEL OWNED BY ONE OF EUROPE'S ROYAL FAMILIES.

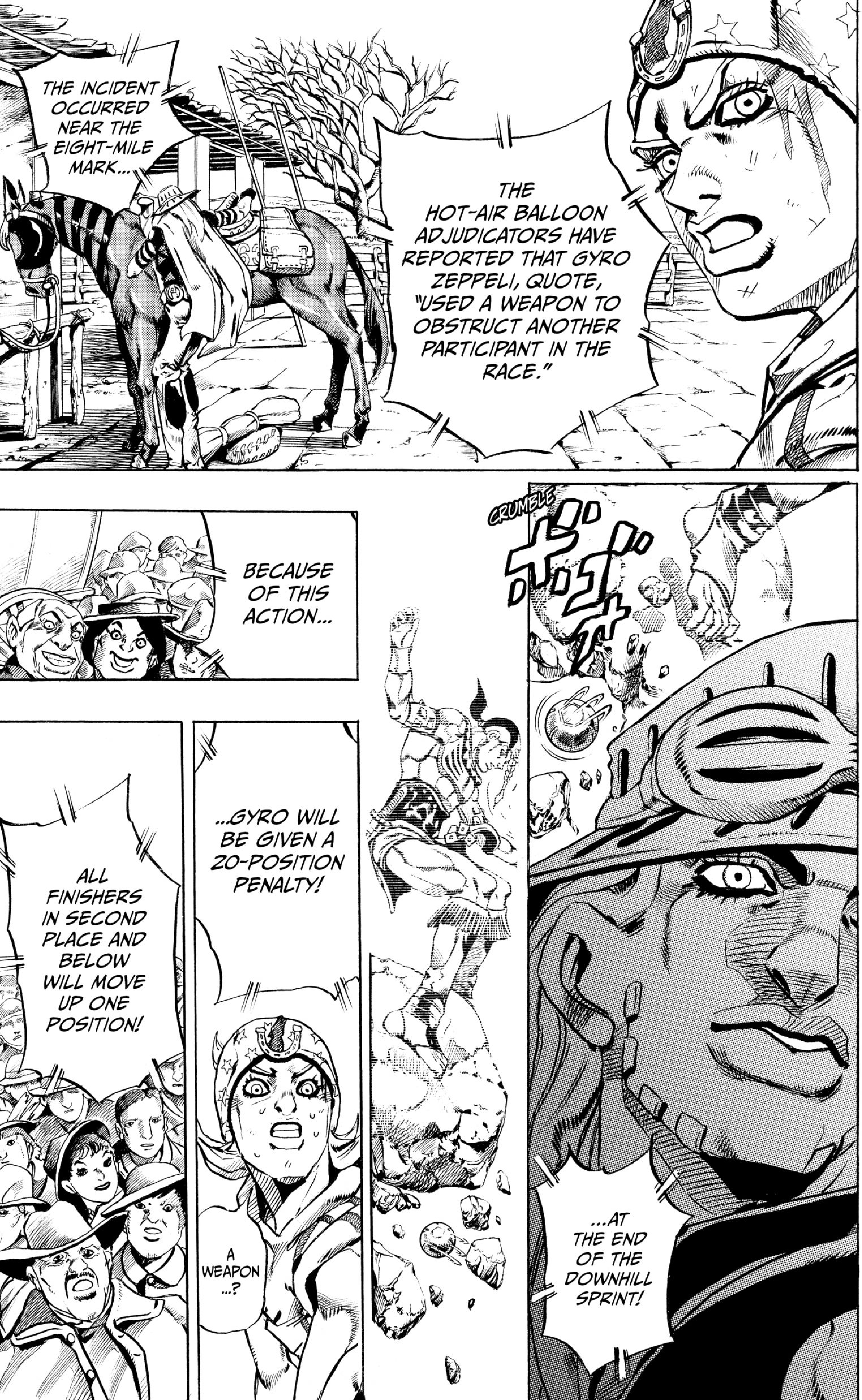

A ROYAL FAMILY...?
SO THAT MEANS... WELL, WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
HE'S EITHER AN IMPORTANT PERSON IN THE GOVERNMENT, OR HE'S VERY WEALTHY. BUT THAT BEGS THE QUESTION...WHY WOULD A WEALTHY PERSON WANT TO COMPETE IN THIS RACE?
BUT IN ANY CASE...
...PERHAPS YOU SHOULD QUESTION THIS ZEPPELI DIRECTLY, SIR. ASK HIM WHO HE IS.

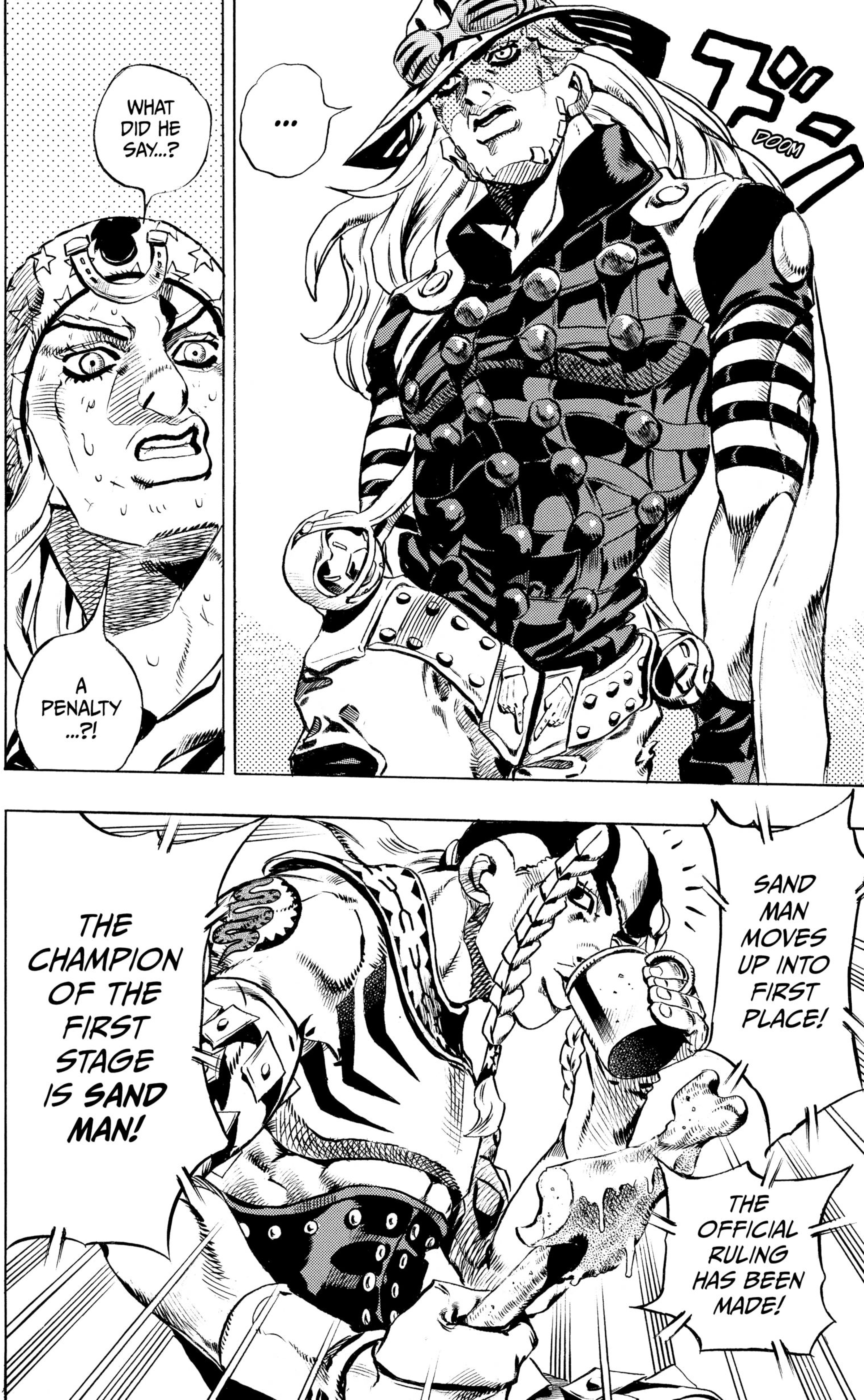

HIS RACING APPLICATION IS COMPLETELY BLANK!
IF HE'S NOT EVEN FROM HERE, WHY IS HE HIDING HIS PAST? AND IF I QUESTIONED HIM, WHO'S TO SAY HE'D TELL US ANYTHING?
THE SECOND STAGE IS A LONG-DISTANCE RACE OF 750 MILES. AND FROM THIS STAGE ON, PEOPLE ALL ACROSS AMERICA WILL BE BETTING ON WHO WILL TAKE FIRST PLACE.

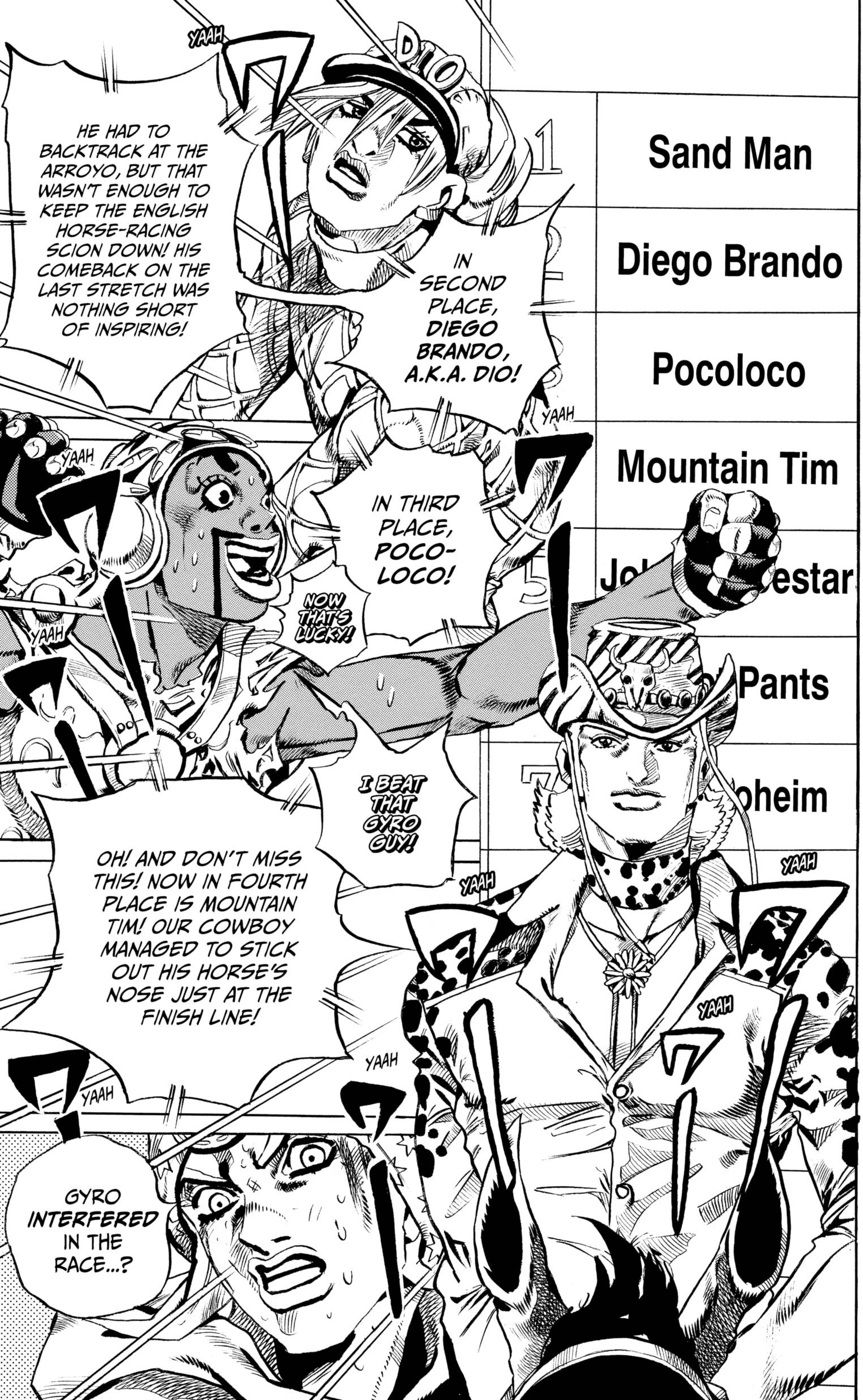

I WANT TO KNOW WHO THIS GYRO ZEPPELI MAN IS NOW! GOT IT?!


LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! I'VE JUST RECEIVED THE OFFICIAL RESULTS!
ドワー
YAAAAAH
AND HERE THEY ARE!


ACCORDING TO THE JUDGES' DELIBERATION...
...THE FIRST-PLACE FINISHER, GYRO ZEPPELI...
...COMMITTED INTERFERENCE AGAINST SAND MAN!
...
ZEPPELI HAS RECEIVED A PENALTY!
HUH?
!
AND IT'S A PLACEMENT PENALTY!
YOU HEARD THAT RIGHT, FOLKS!


THE HOT-AIR BALLOON ADJUDICATORS HAVE REPORTED THAT GYRO ZEPPELI, QUOTE, "USED A WEAPON TO OBSTRUCT ANOTHER PARTICIPANT IN THE RACE."
THE INCIDENT OCCURRED NEAR THE EIGHT-MILE MARK...
CRUMBLE
...AT THE END OF THE DOWNHILL SPRINT!
BECAUSE OF THIS ACTION...
...GYRO WILL BE GIVEN A 20-POSITION PENALTY!
ALL FINISHERS IN SECOND PLACE AND BELOW WILL MOVE UP ONE POSITION!
A WEAPON ...?

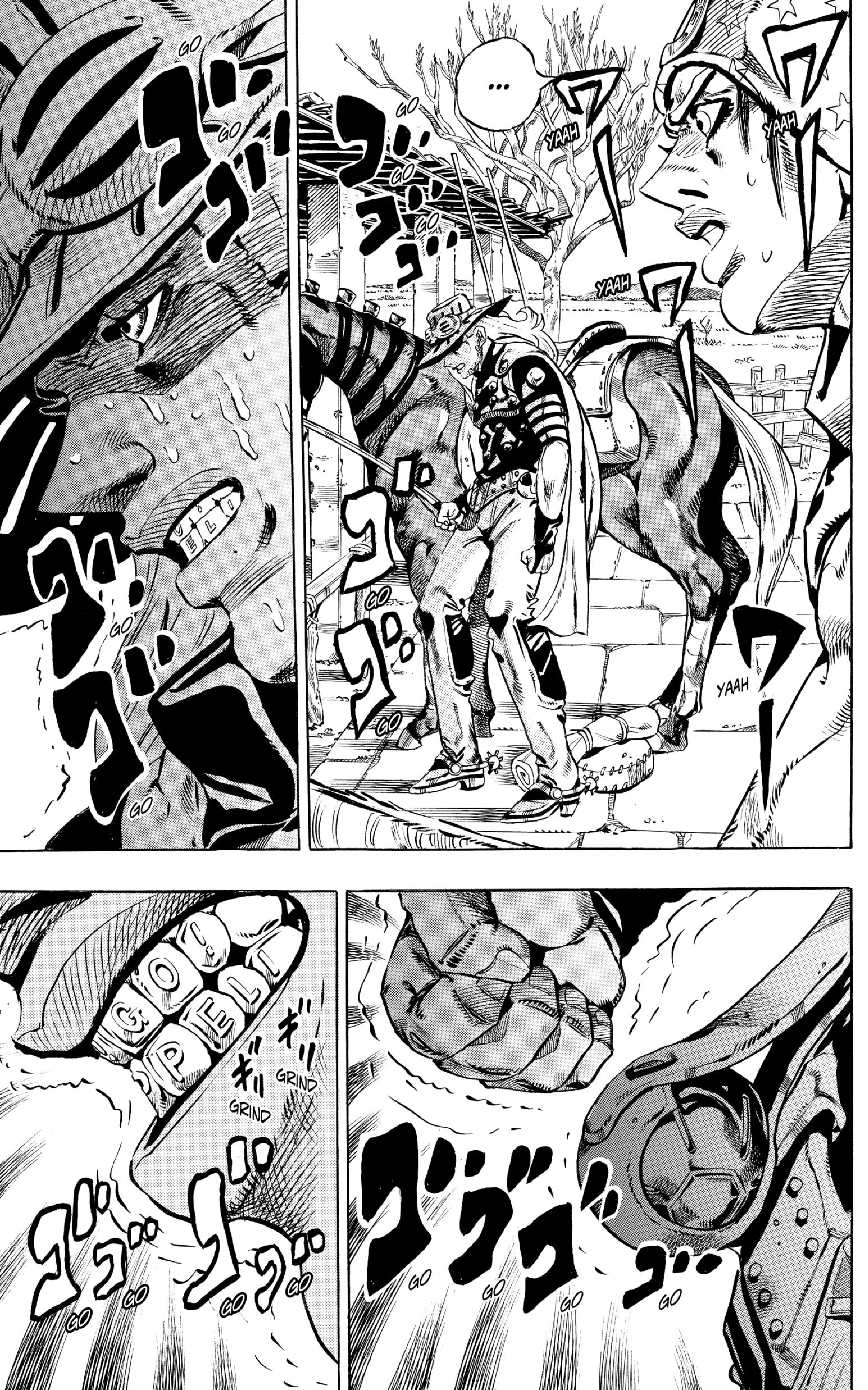

DOOM
...
WHAT DID HE SAY...?
A PENALTY ...?!
SAND MAN MOVES UP INTO FIRST PLACE!
THE OFFICIAL RULING HAS BEEN MADE!
THE CHAMPION OF THE FIRST STAGE IS SAND MAN!

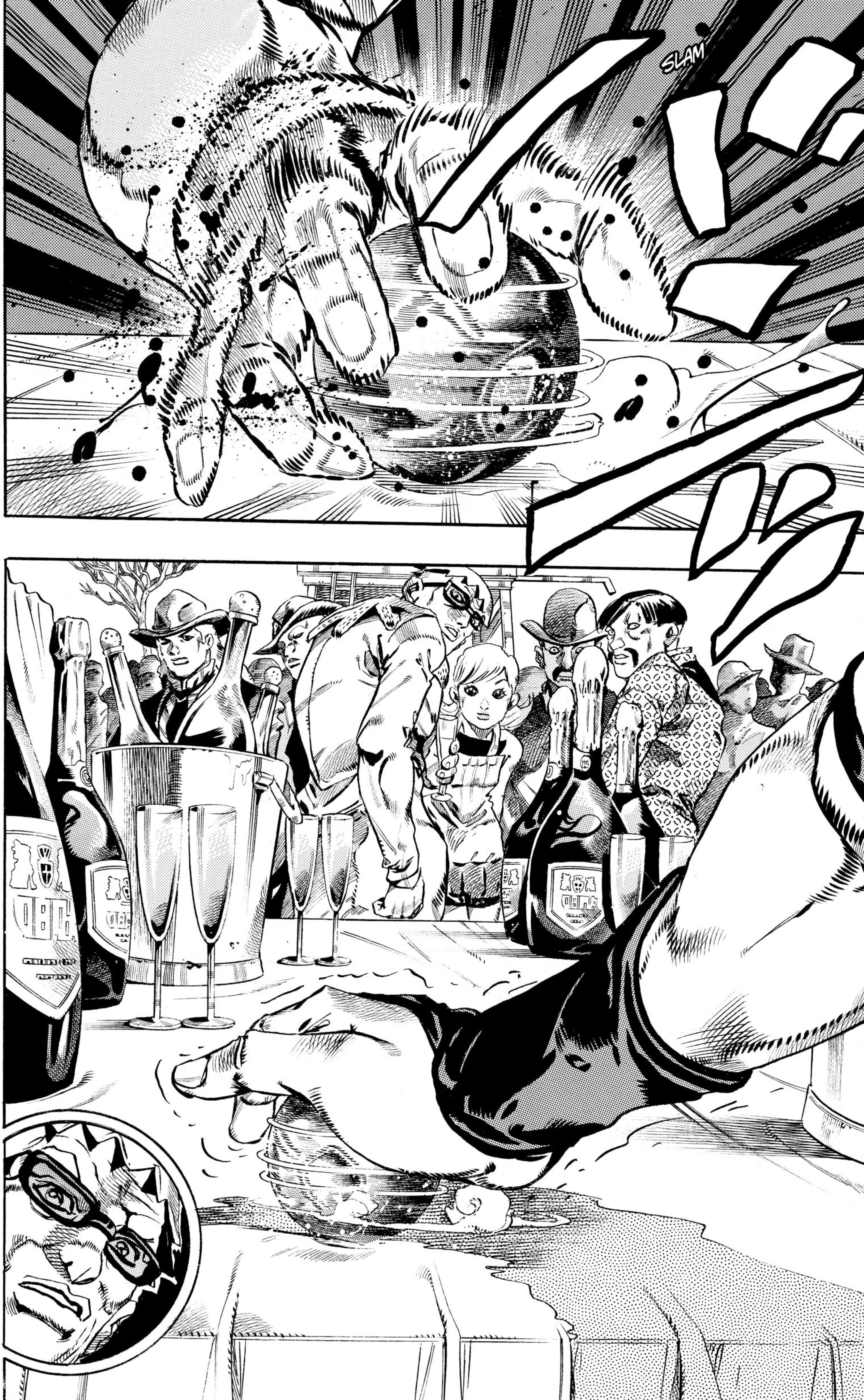

Sand Man
Diego Brando
Pocoloco
Mountain Tim
Jo estar
Pants
oheim
YAAH
IN SECOND PLACE, DIEGO BRANDO, A.K.A. DIO!
HE HAD TO BACKTRACK AT THE ARROYO, BUT THAT WASN'T ENOUGH TO KEEP THE ENGLISH HORSE-RACING SCION DOWN! HIS COMEBACK ON THE LAST STRETCH WAS NOTHING SHORT OF INSPIRING!
YAAH
YAAH
IN THIRD PLACE, POCO-LOCO!
NOW THAT'S LUCKY!
YAAH
I BEAT THAT GYRO GUY!
YAAH
YAAH
OH! AND DON'T MISS THIS! NOW IN FOURTH PLACE IS MOUNTAIN TIM! OUR COWBOY MANAGED TO STICK OUT HIS HORSE'S NOSE JUST AT THE FINISH LINE!
YAAH
YAAH
YAAH
GYRO INTERFERED IN THE RACE...?

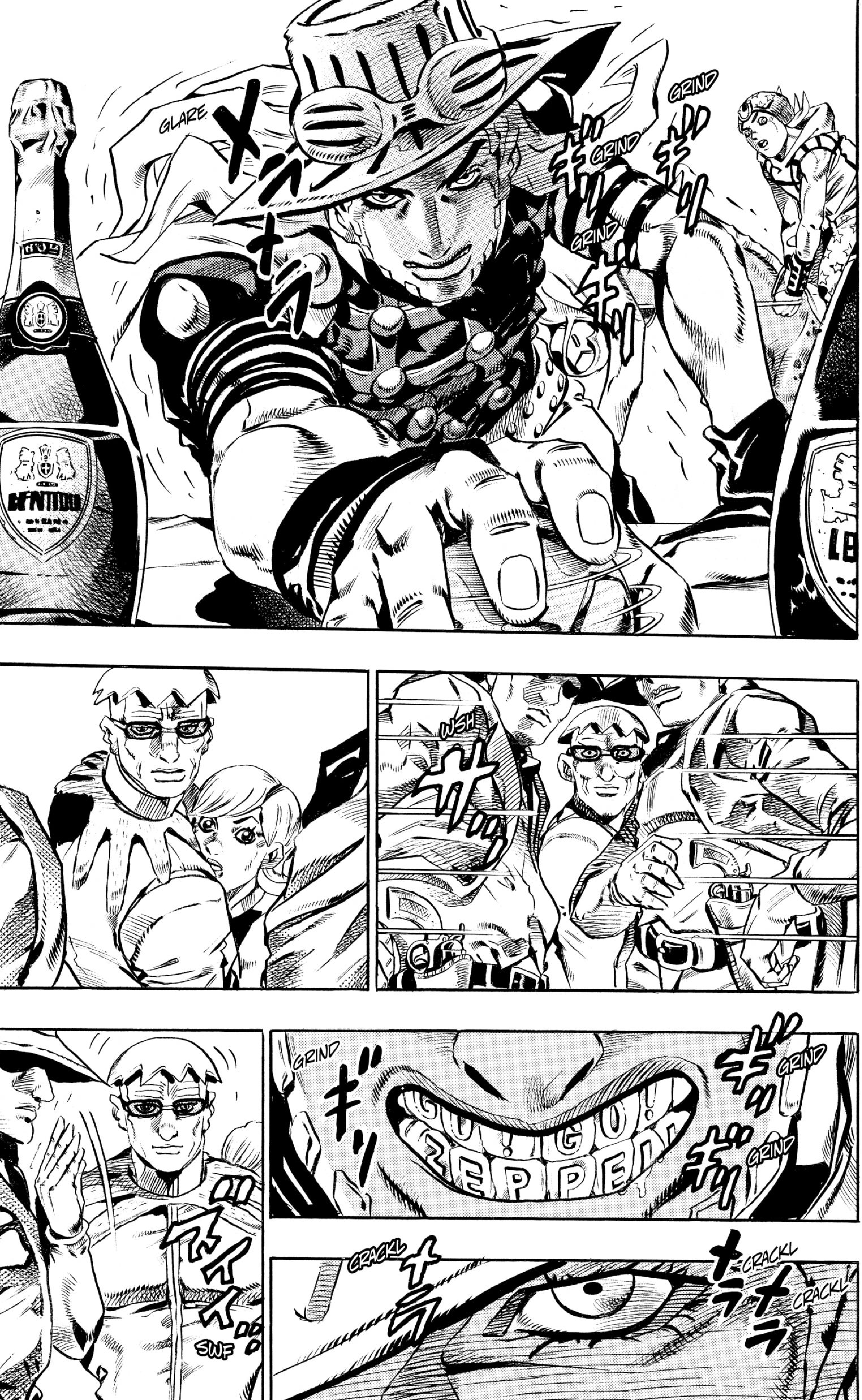
1st Stage: 9.3 Miles (San Diego Beach to Santa Maria Novella Church)

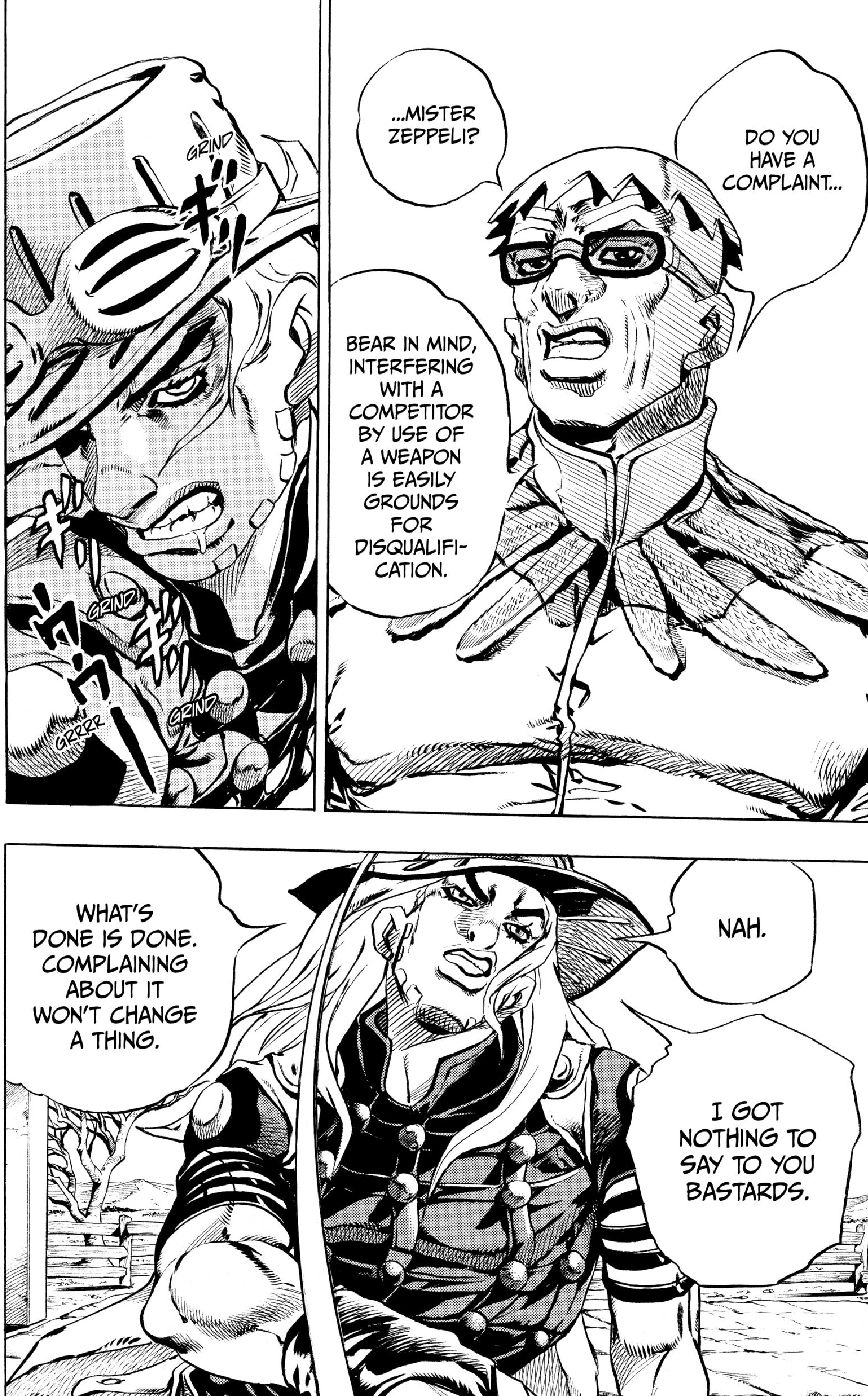
Participants: 3852 Retired: 82 Start: Sept. 25, 1890, 10:00 AM

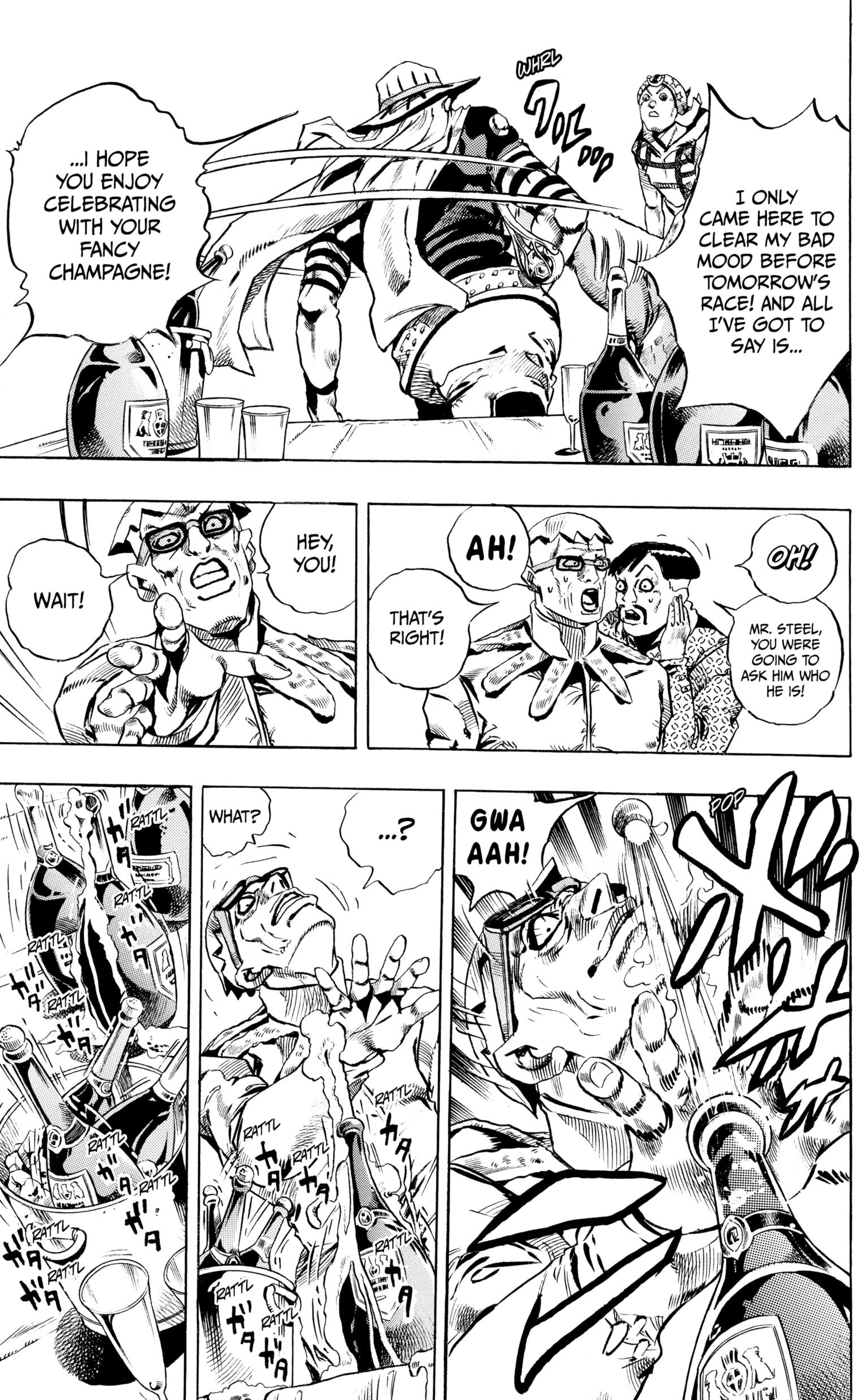
Placement	Name	Nationality	Horse	Horse Age	Finishing Time (Horse lengths behind 1st)	Horse Breed	Points Earned	Bonus Awarded
1	Sand Man	USA	(Himself)	N/A	18 min, 09 sec	N/A	100	One-hour time bonus, $10,000
2	Diego Brando	UK	Silver Bullet	4	Nose	Anglo-Arabian	50	
3	Pocoloco	USA	Hey Yo!	4	Nose	Quarter Horse	40	
4	Mountain Tim	USA	Shadow Rider	5	Nose	Mustang	35	
5	Johnny Joestar	USA	Slow Dancer	11	Neck	Appaloosa	30	
6	Hot Pants	USA	Giddyup	3	2½	Mustang	25	
7	F. V. Stroheim	DE	European Express	4	3¼	Trakehner	20	
8	Southern Chicken	USA	Wanderin' Man	4	5	Pinto	15	
9	Benny Boomboom	USA	Heavy Traffic	4	8¼	Quarter Horse	13	
10	Andrew Boomboom	USA	Foxy Woman	3	8½	Quarter Horse	12	
11	Laurence Boomboom	USA	Tiny Wing	3	8¾	Quarter Horse	11	
12	Zen Monde	IN	Roxana	5	11	Arabian	10	
13	Caravan Serai	MX	Moon Vine	4	13	Andalusian	9	
14	Baba Yaga	RU	Nutcracker	5	13½	Arabian	8	
15	Niel Berry	USA	Country Grammar	4	13¾	Quarter Horse	7	
16	Dott Han	VN	Number One	4	15	Boulonnais	6	
17	Gaucho	ES	Peggy	6	17	Criollo	5	
18	Robinson	MX	Flying Condor	7	17¼	Appaloosa	4	
19	Norisuke Higashikata	JP	Hono	4	21	Bavarian Warmblood	3	
20	Yacht Jet Black	USA	Waverider	4	23	Quarter Horse	2	
21	Gyro Zeppeli	??	Valkyrie	4	Penalized 20 places	Quarter Horse	1	
22	Billy White	USA	Endless Love	5	28	Mustang	0	
23	Iglesias	PT	Natalie	5	35	Palomino	0	

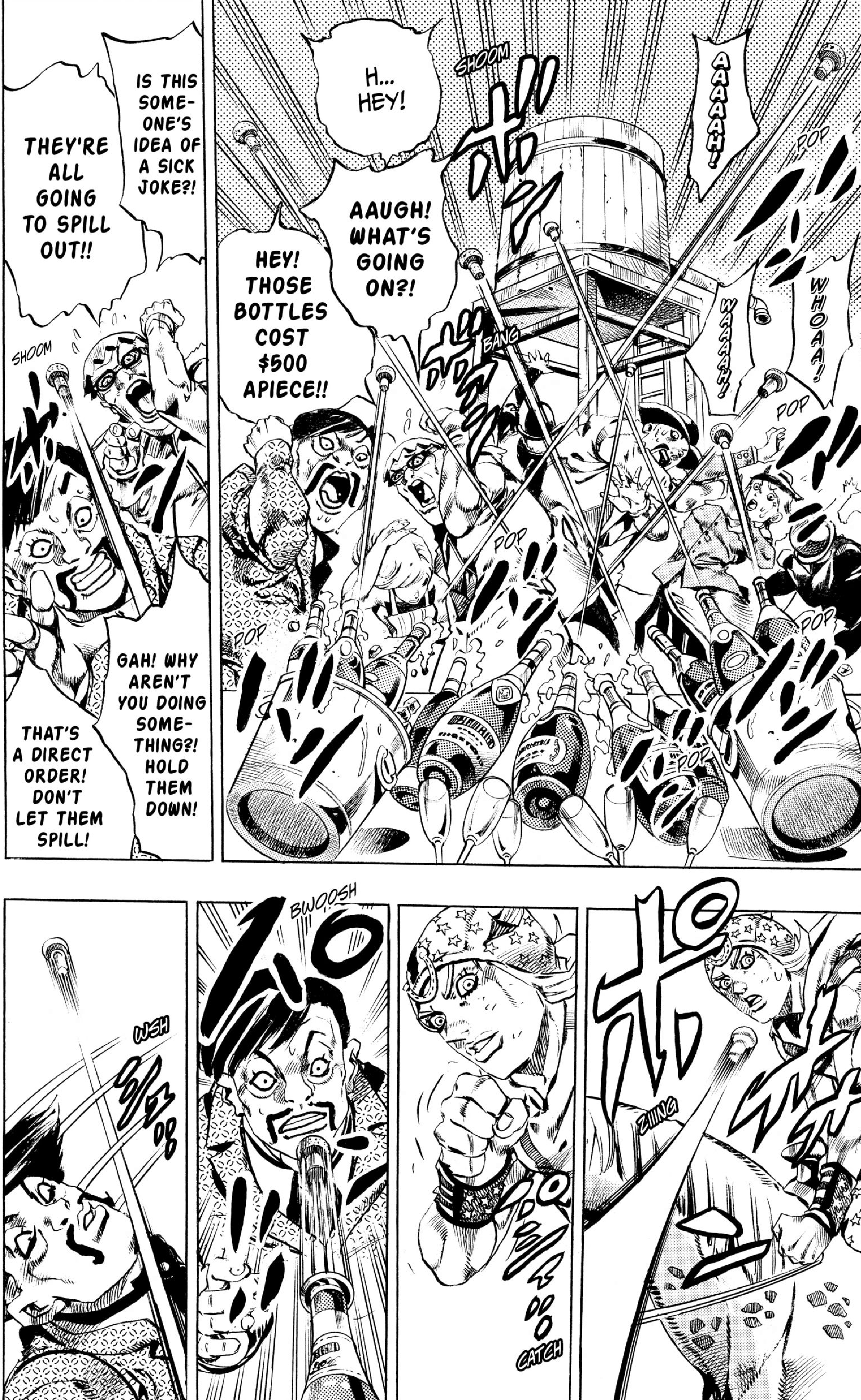

…
ワァァ YAAH
ワァァ YAAH
ワァ YAAH
ワァ YAAH
ゴゴゴ GO GO GO
ゴゴゴゴ GO GO GO GO
ゴゴゴゴ GO GO GO GO
ゴゴゴゴ GO GO GO GO
ギリ GRIND
ギリ GRIND
ゴゴゴゴ GO GO GO GO

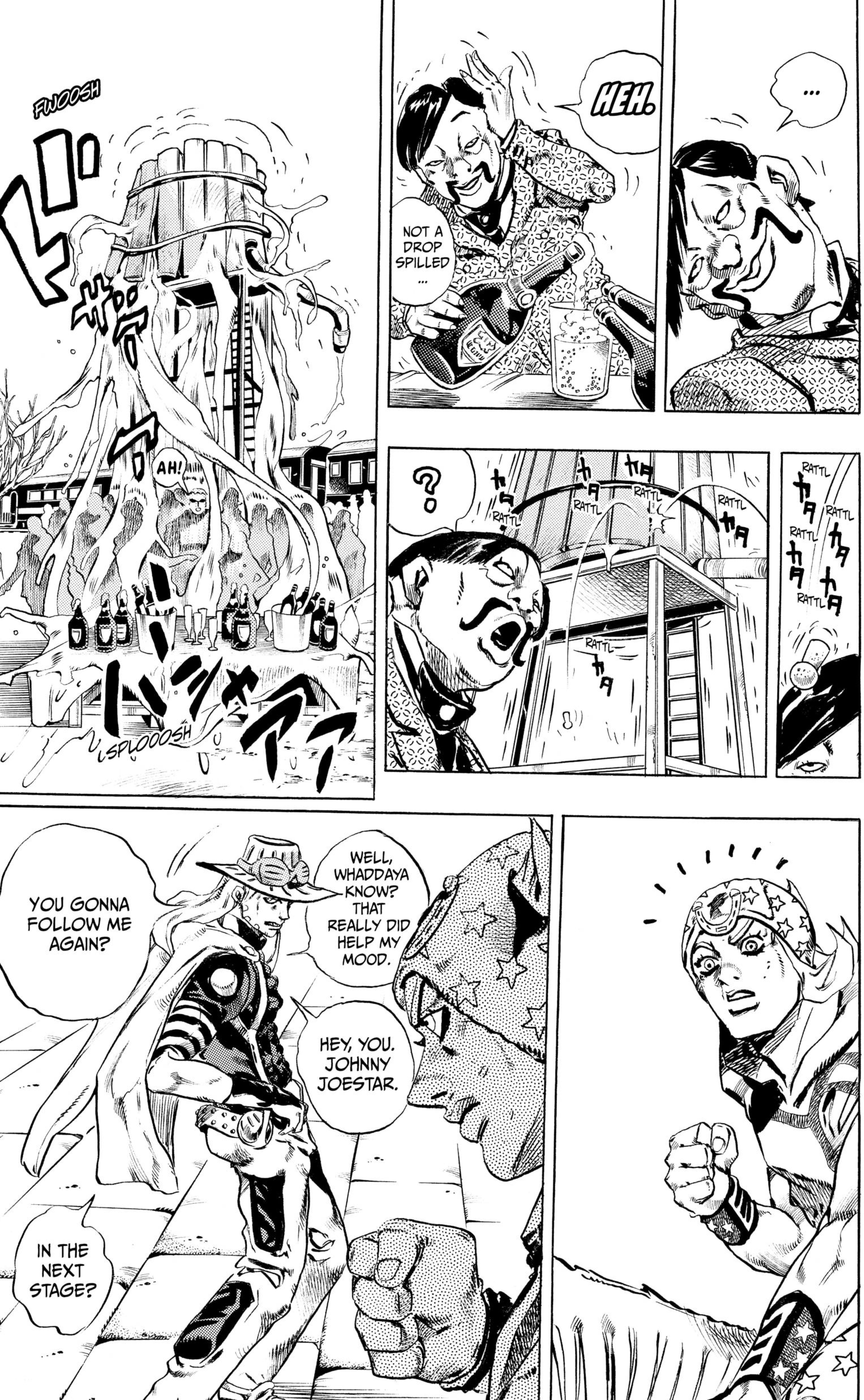

SLAM

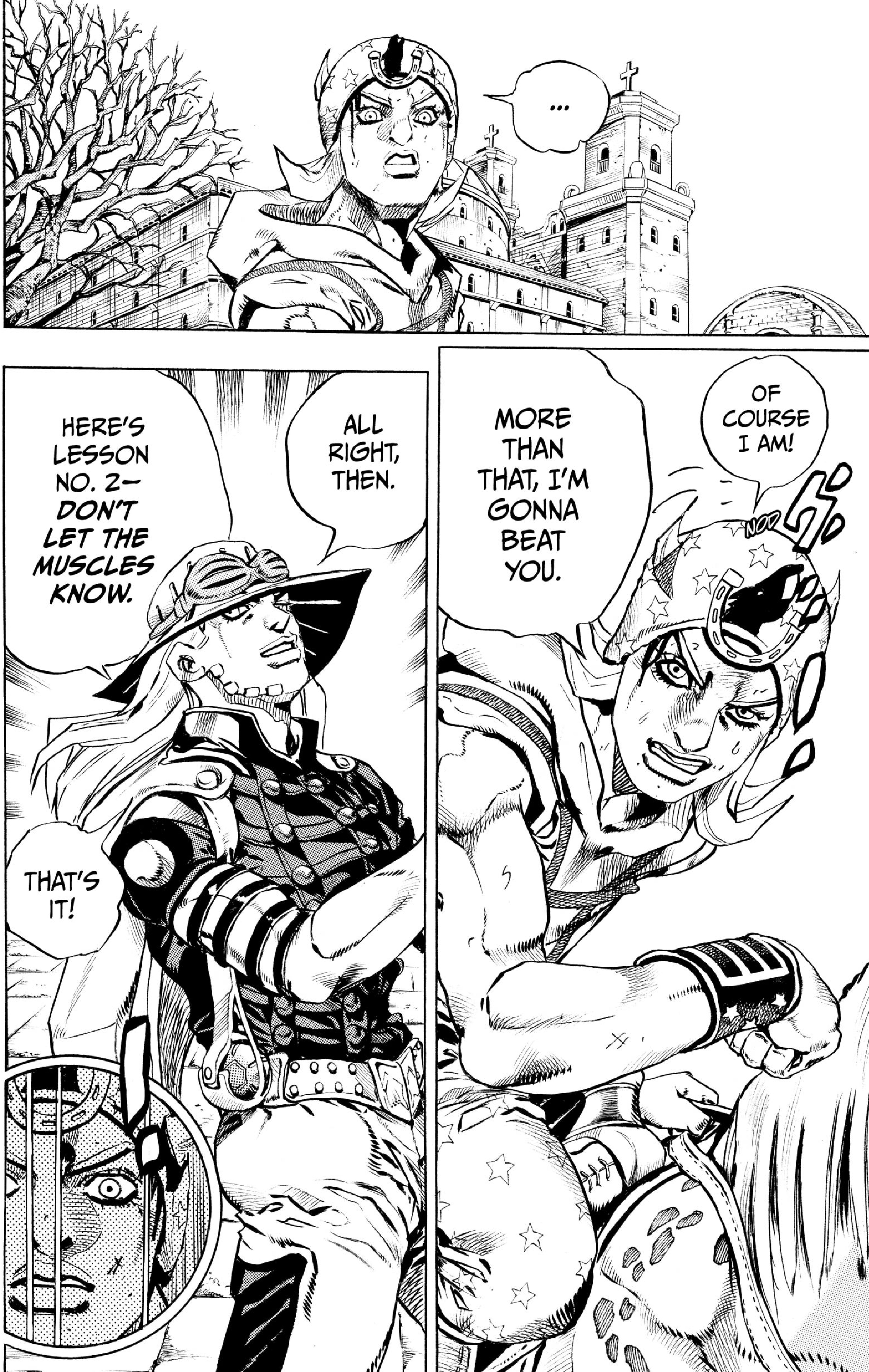

GRIND
GRIND
GRIND
GLARE
WSH
GRIND
GRIND
GRIND
GO! GO! ZEPPE
SWF
CRACKL
CRACKL
CRACKL

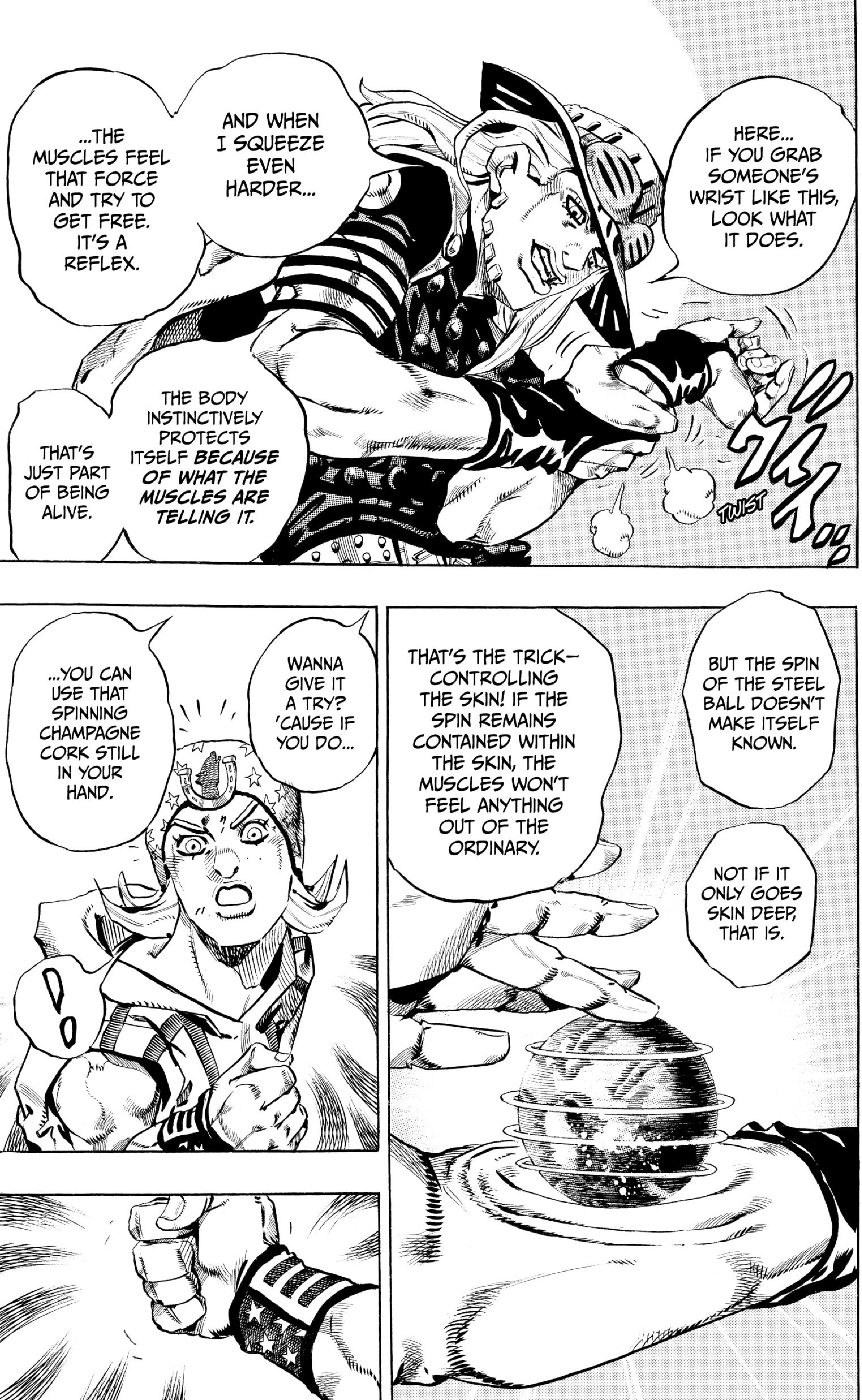

DO YOU HAVE A COMPLAINT...
...MISTER ZEPPELI?
BEAR IN MIND, INTERFERING WITH A COMPETITOR BY USE OF A WEAPON IS EASILY GROUNDS FOR DISQUALIFICATION.
GRIND
GRIND
GRIND
GRRRR
NAH.
I GOT NOTHING TO SAY TO YOU BASTARDS.
WHAT'S DONE IS DONE. COMPLAINING ABOUT IT WON'T CHANGE A THING.

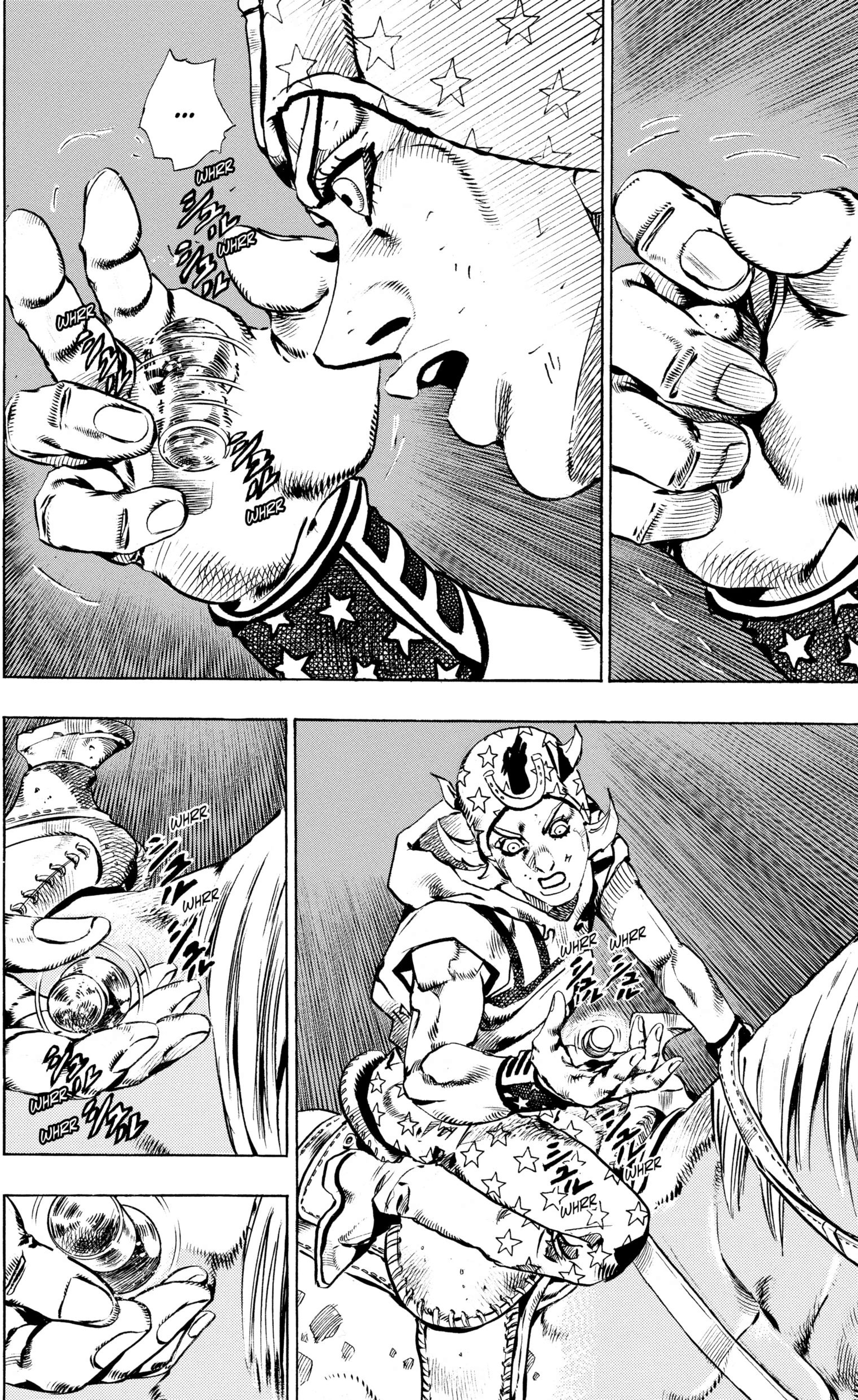

WHRL
ドロロ
I ONLY CAME HERE TO CLEAR MY BAD MOOD BEFORE TOMORROW'S RACE! AND ALL I'VE GOT TO SAY IS...
...I HOPE YOU ENJOY CELEBRATING WITH YOUR FANCY CHAMPAGNE!
OH!
MR. STEEL, YOU WERE GOING TO ASK HIM WHO HE IS!
AH!
THAT'S RIGHT!
HEY, YOU!
WAIT!
POP
GWA AAH!
...?
WHAT?
RATTL
ガタ
RATTL
ガタ
RATTL
ガタ
RATTL
ガタ


AAAAAH!
H... HEY!
SHOOM
POP
WHOAAA!
WAAAAAH!
POP
AAUGH! WHAT'S GOING ON?!
HEY! THOSE BOTTLES COST $500 APIECE!!
BANG
POP
POP
POP
POP
IS THIS SOMEONE'S IDEA OF A SICK JOKE?!
THEY'RE ALL GOING TO SPILL OUT!!
SHOOM
GAH! WHY AREN'T YOU DOING SOMETHING?! HOLD THEM DOWN!
THAT'S A DIRECT ORDER! DON'T LET THEM SPILL!
ZIIING
CATCH
BWOOSH
WSH


...
HEH.
NOT A DROP SPILLED ...
RATTL
RATTL
RATTL
RATTL
?
RATTL
RATTL
RATTL
RATTL
RATTL
FWOOSH
AH!
SPLOOOSH
WELL, WHADDAYA KNOW? THAT REALLY DID HELP MY MOOD.
HEY, YOU. JOHNNY JOESTAR.
YOU GONNA FOLLOW ME AGAIN?
IN THE NEXT STAGE?

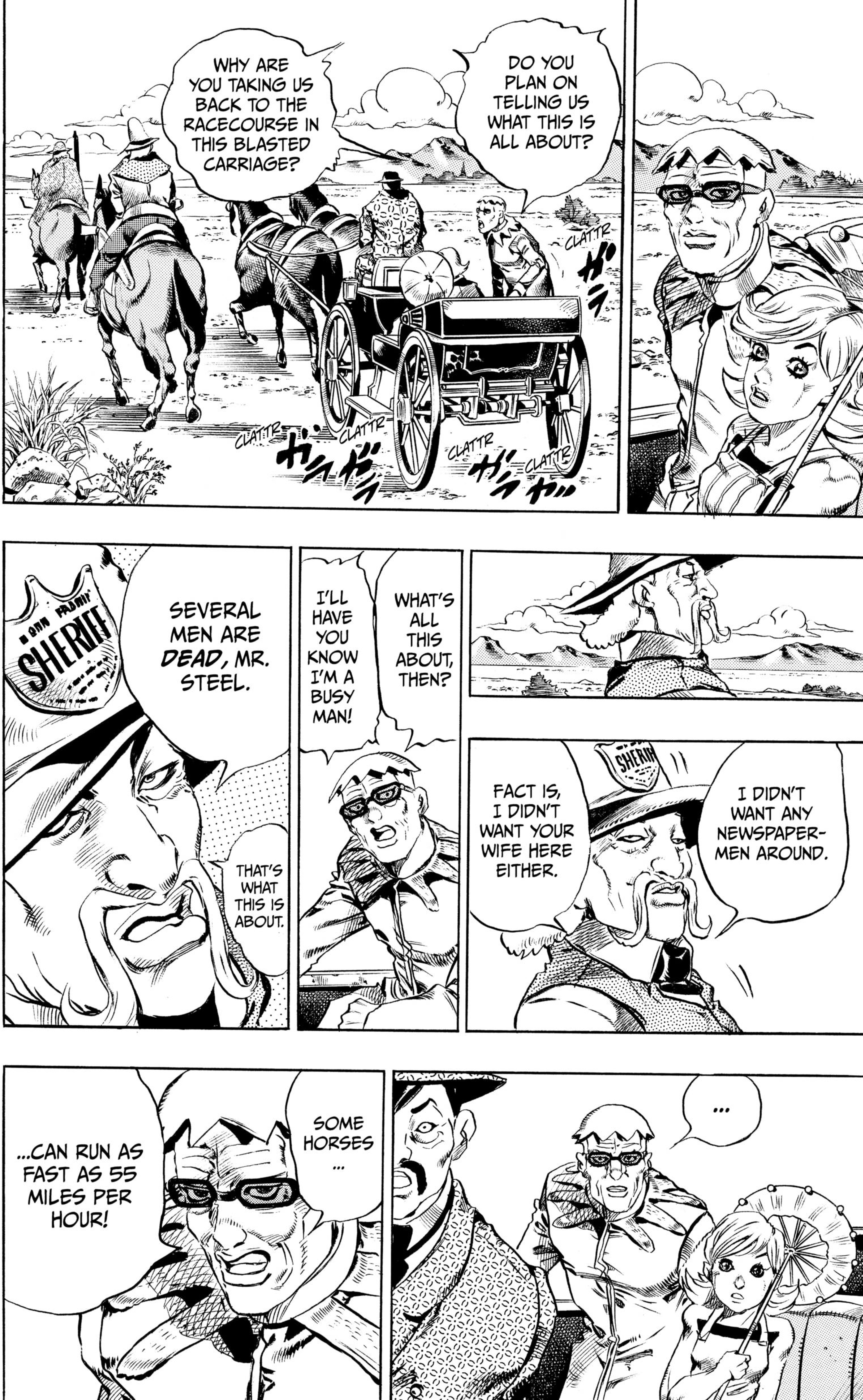

...
OF COURSE I AM!
NOD
MORE THAN THAT, I'M GONNA BEAT YOU.
ALL RIGHT, THEN.
HERE'S LESSON NO. 2— *DON'T LET THE MUSCLES KNOW.*
THAT'S IT!

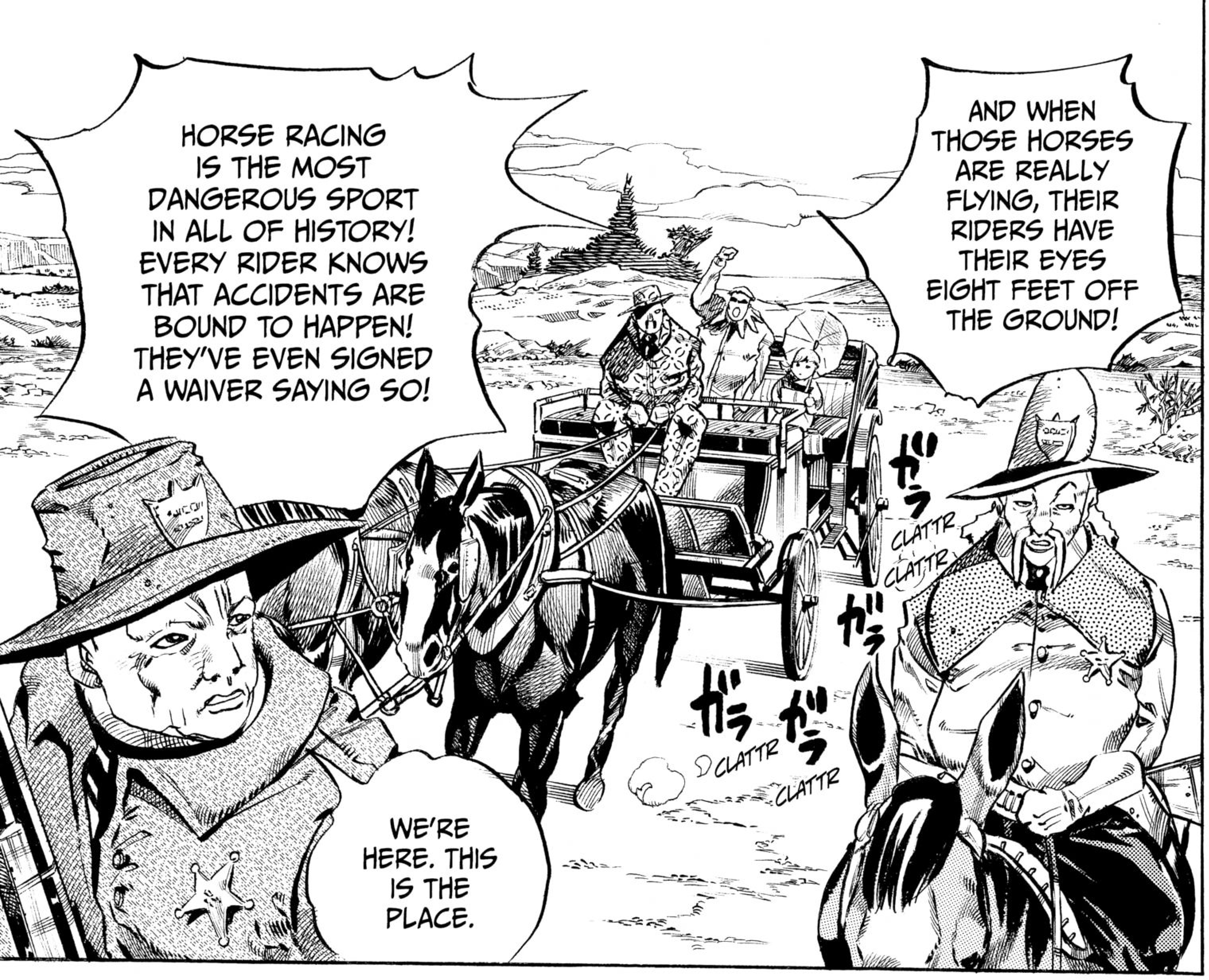

HERE... IF YOU GRAB SOMEONE'S WRIST LIKE THIS, LOOK WHAT IT DOES.
AND WHEN I SQUEEZE EVEN HARDER...
...THE MUSCLES FEEL THAT FORCE AND TRY TO GET FREE. IT'S A REFLEX.
TWIST
THE BODY INSTINCTIVELY PROTECTS ITSELF *BECAUSE OF WHAT THE MUSCLES ARE TELLING IT.*
THAT'S JUST PART OF BEING ALIVE.
BUT THE SPIN OF THE STEEL BALL DOESN'T MAKE ITSELF KNOWN.
NOT IF IT ONLY GOES SKIN DEEP, THAT IS.
THAT'S THE TRICK—CONTROLLING THE SKIN! IF THE SPIN REMAINS CONTAINED WITHIN THE SKIN, THE MUSCLES WON'T FEEL ANYTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY.
WANNA GIVE IT A TRY? 'CAUSE IF YOU DO...
...YOU CAN USE THAT SPINNING CHAMPAGNE CORK STILL IN YOUR HAND.
!

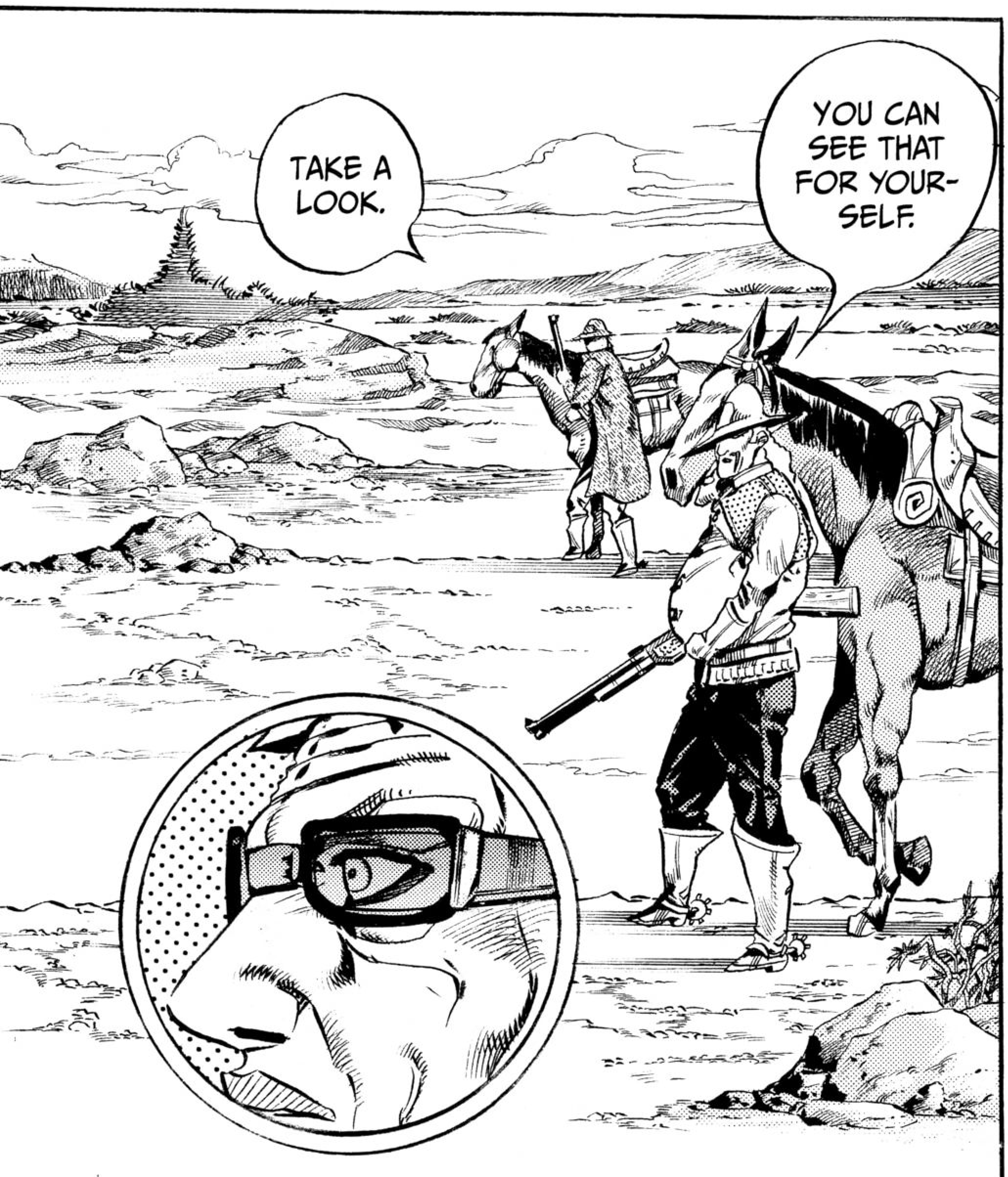

...
WHRR
WHRR
WHRR
WHRR
WHRR
WHRR
WHRR
WHRR
WHRR
WHRR
WHRR
WHRR
WHRR

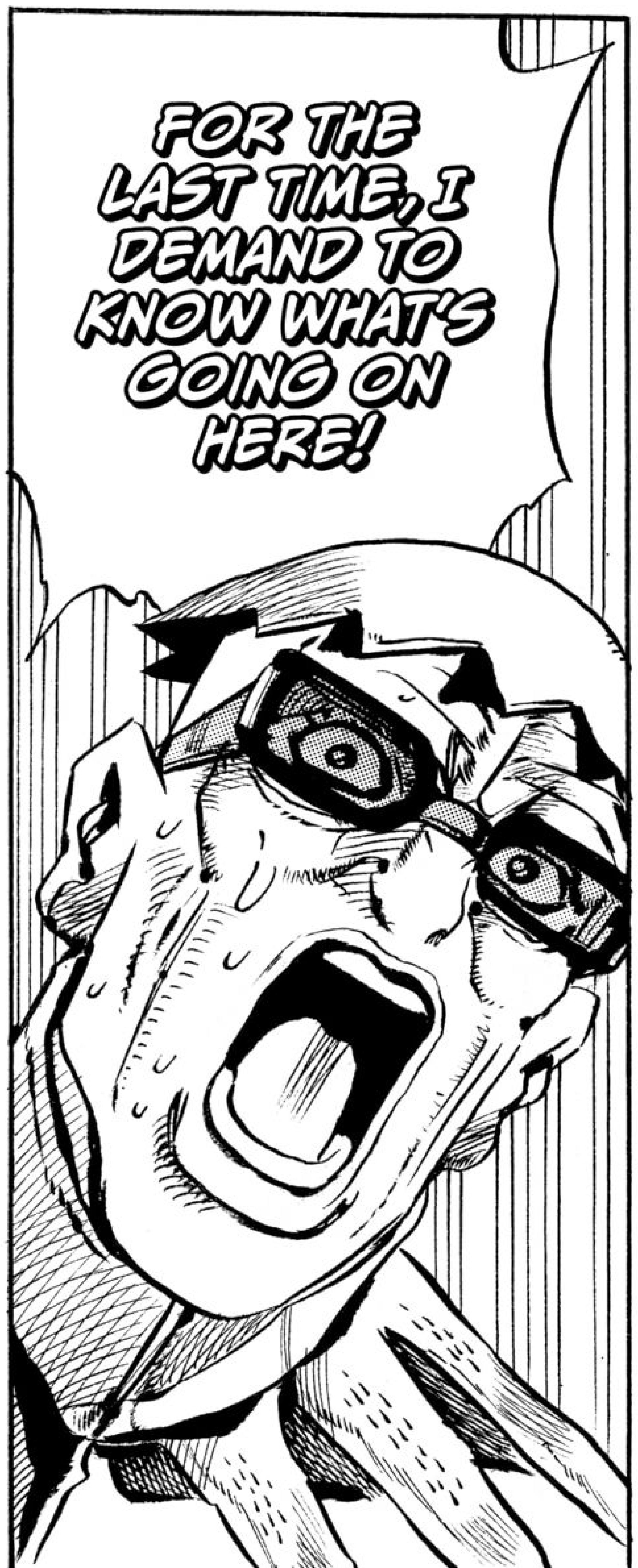
ZWMMMMM
H
H
H
H
H
H
WOOSH

I SEE YOU'VE FIGURED OUT THE *DISMOUNT.*
ド
TOSS
THE HORSE'S MUSCLES DIDN'T NOTICE THE TWIST, ***BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T LET THEM.***
MY WEAPON ISN'T THE STEEL BALL—IT'S THE FORCE OF THE *SPIN.*
SO, JOHNNY JOESTAR. THE SECOND STAGE IS A DESERT CROSSING OF MORE THAN 750 MILES.
IT'S GONNA BE TOUGH.
LET'S WORK TOGETHER.
WE'LL FINISH FIRST AND SECOND... BUT MAKE NO MISTAKE, ***I'LL*** BE FIRST.
OOOOO
ガラ ガラ ガラ ガラ
CLATTR CLATTR CLATTR CLATTR
ガラ ガラ ガラ ガラ
CLATTR CLATTR CLATTR CLATTR
HEY, SHERIFF!
...

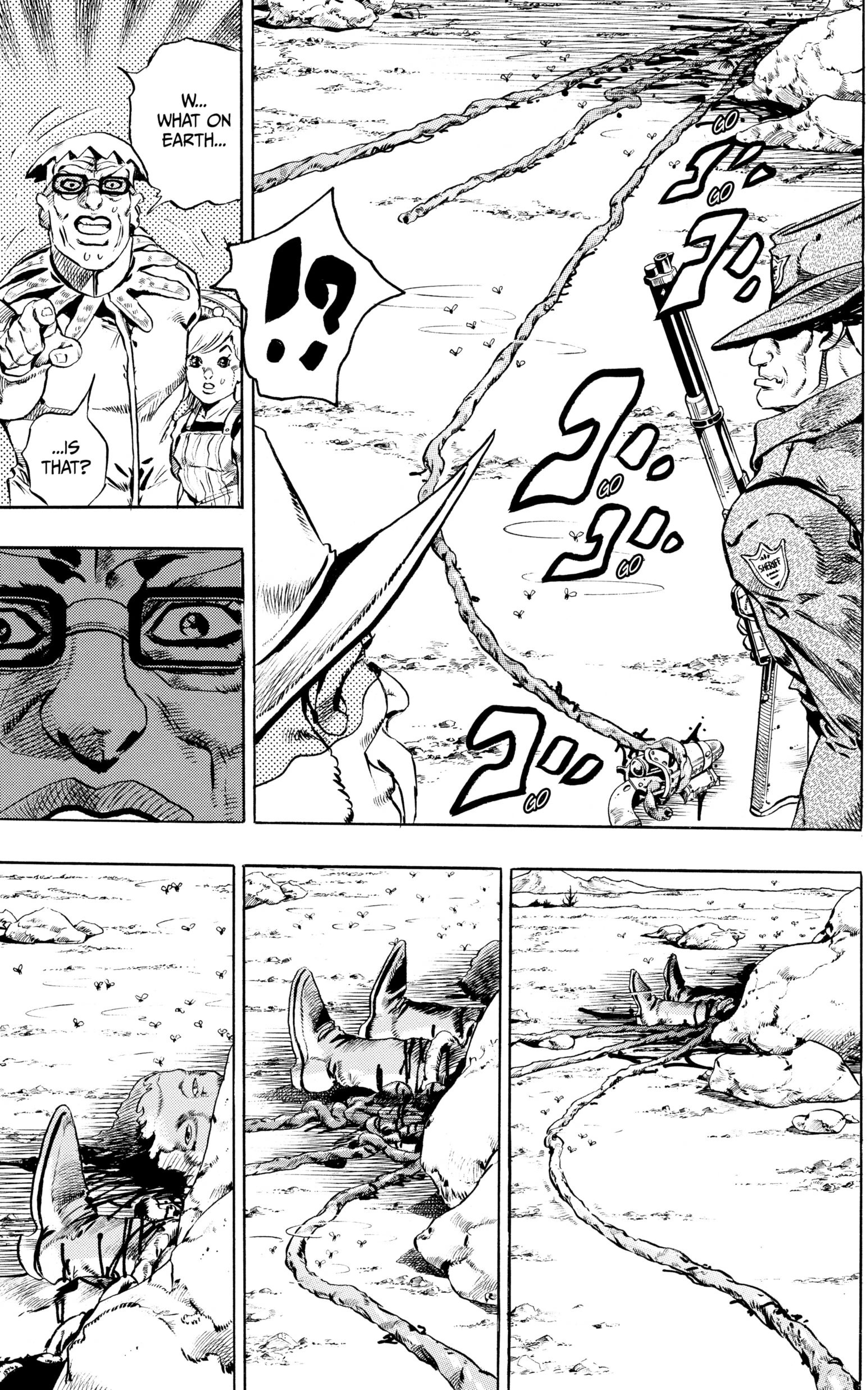

DO YOU PLAN ON TELLING US WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT?
WHY ARE YOU TAKING US BACK TO THE RACECOURSE IN THIS BLASTED CARRIAGE?
CLATTR
CLATTR
CLATTR
CLATTR
CLATTR
I DIDN'T WANT ANY NEWSPAPERMEN AROUND.
FACT IS, I DIDN'T WANT YOUR WIFE HERE EITHER.
SHERIFF
WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT, THEN?
I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW I'M A BUSY MAN!
SHERIFF
SEVERAL MEN ARE DEAD, MR. STEEL.
THAT'S WHAT THIS IS ABOUT.
...
SOME HORSES ...
...CAN RUN AS FAST AS 55 MILES PER HOUR!


HORSE RACING IS THE MOST DANGEROUS SPORT IN ALL OF HISTORY! EVERY RIDER KNOWS THAT ACCIDENTS ARE BOUND TO HAPPEN! THEY'VE EVEN SIGNED A WAIVER SAYING SO!
AND WHEN THOSE HORSES ARE REALLY FLYING, THEIR RIDERS HAVE THEIR EYES EIGHT FEET OFF THE GROUND!
ガラ CLATTR
ガラ CLATTR
ガラ CLATTR
ガラ CLATTR
WE'RE HERE. THIS IS THE PLACE.

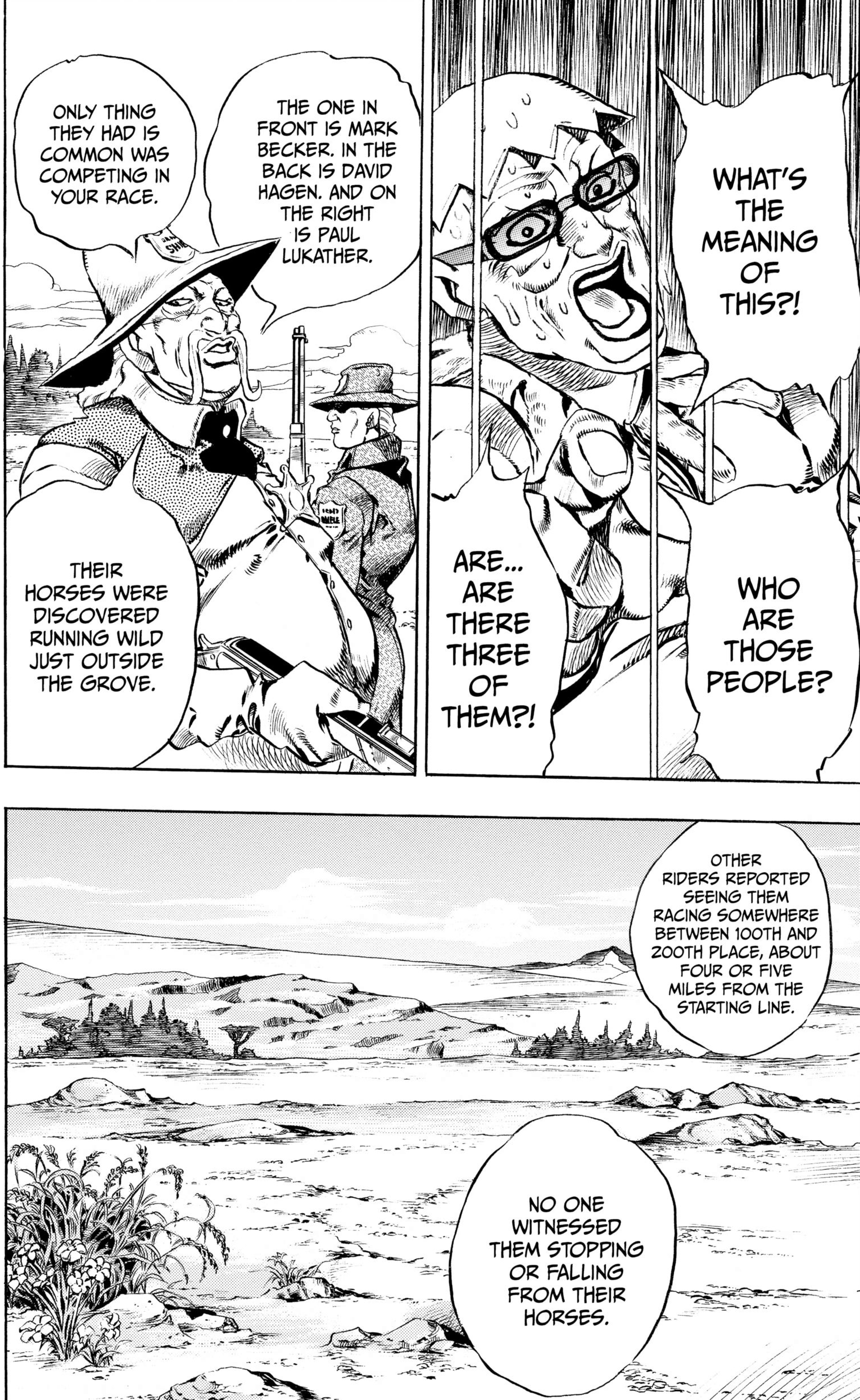

TAKE A LOOK.
YOU CAN SEE THAT FOR YOURSELF.

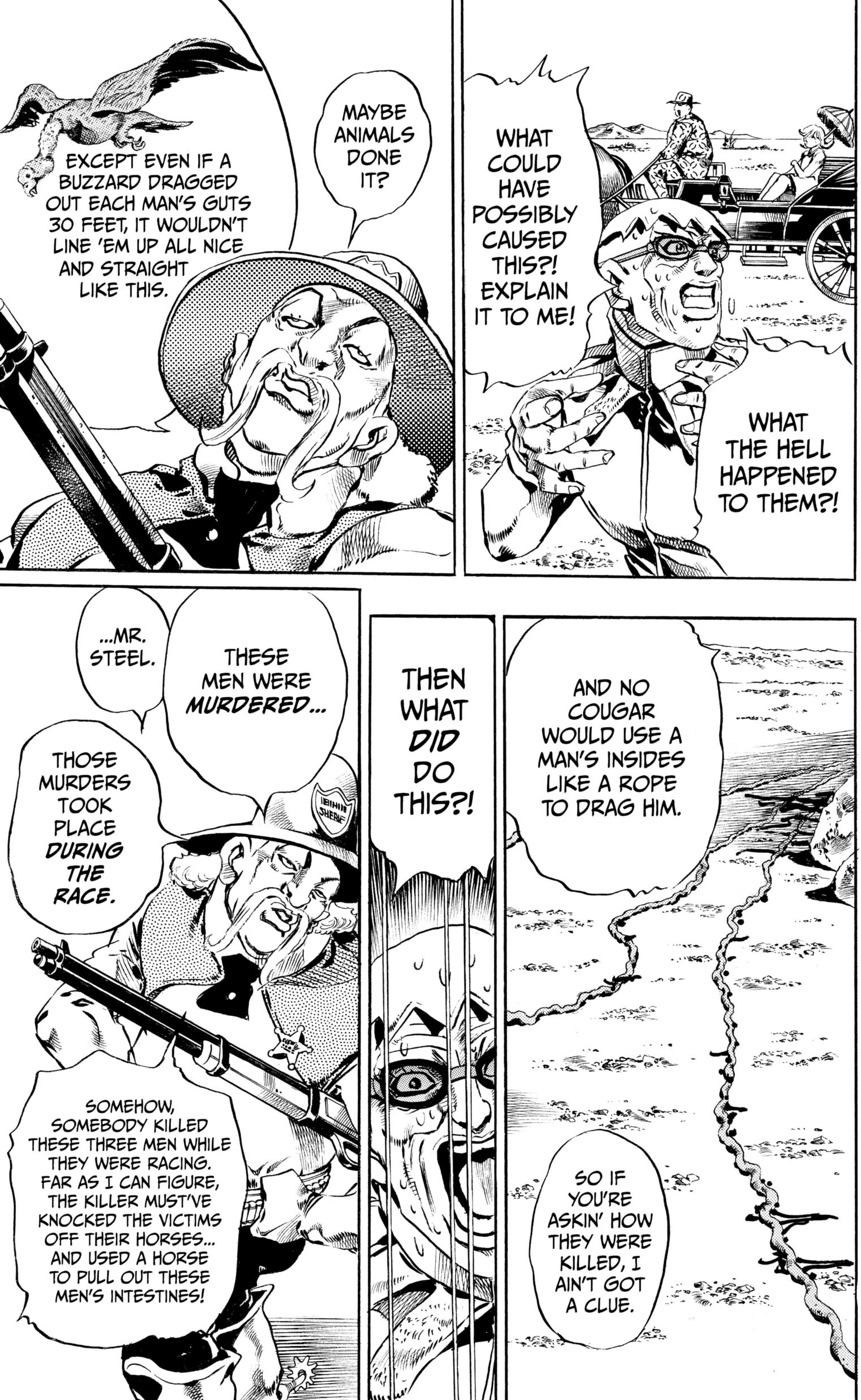

FOR THE LAST TIME, I DEMAND TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON HERE!

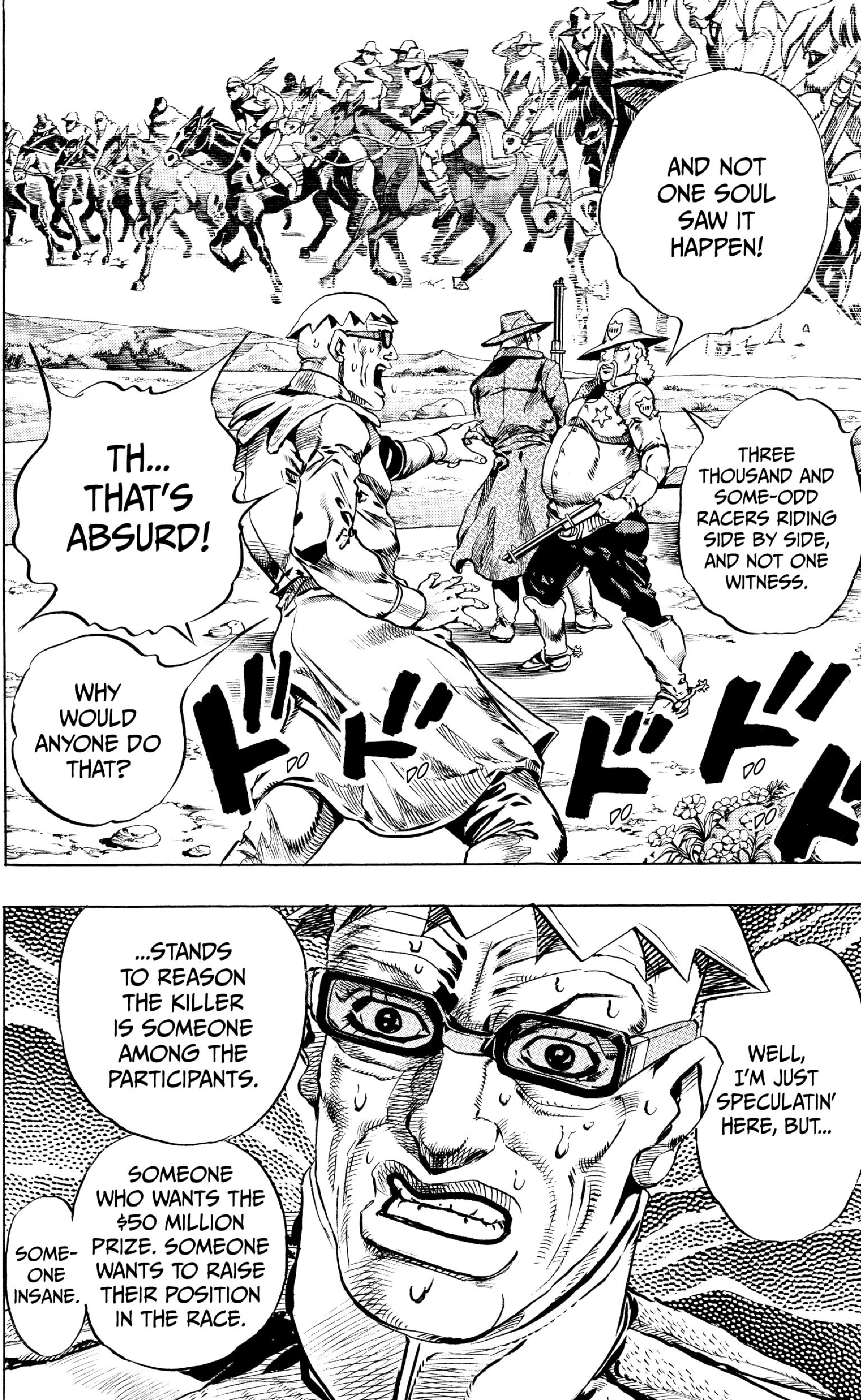
!!
ゴゴゴ GO GO GO
ゴゴゴゴ GO GO GO GO
ゴ GO
ゴゴ GO GO
ゴゴゴ GO GO
!?
ゴゴゴゴゴ GO GO GO GO GO
ゴ GO
ゴゴゴ GO GO GO

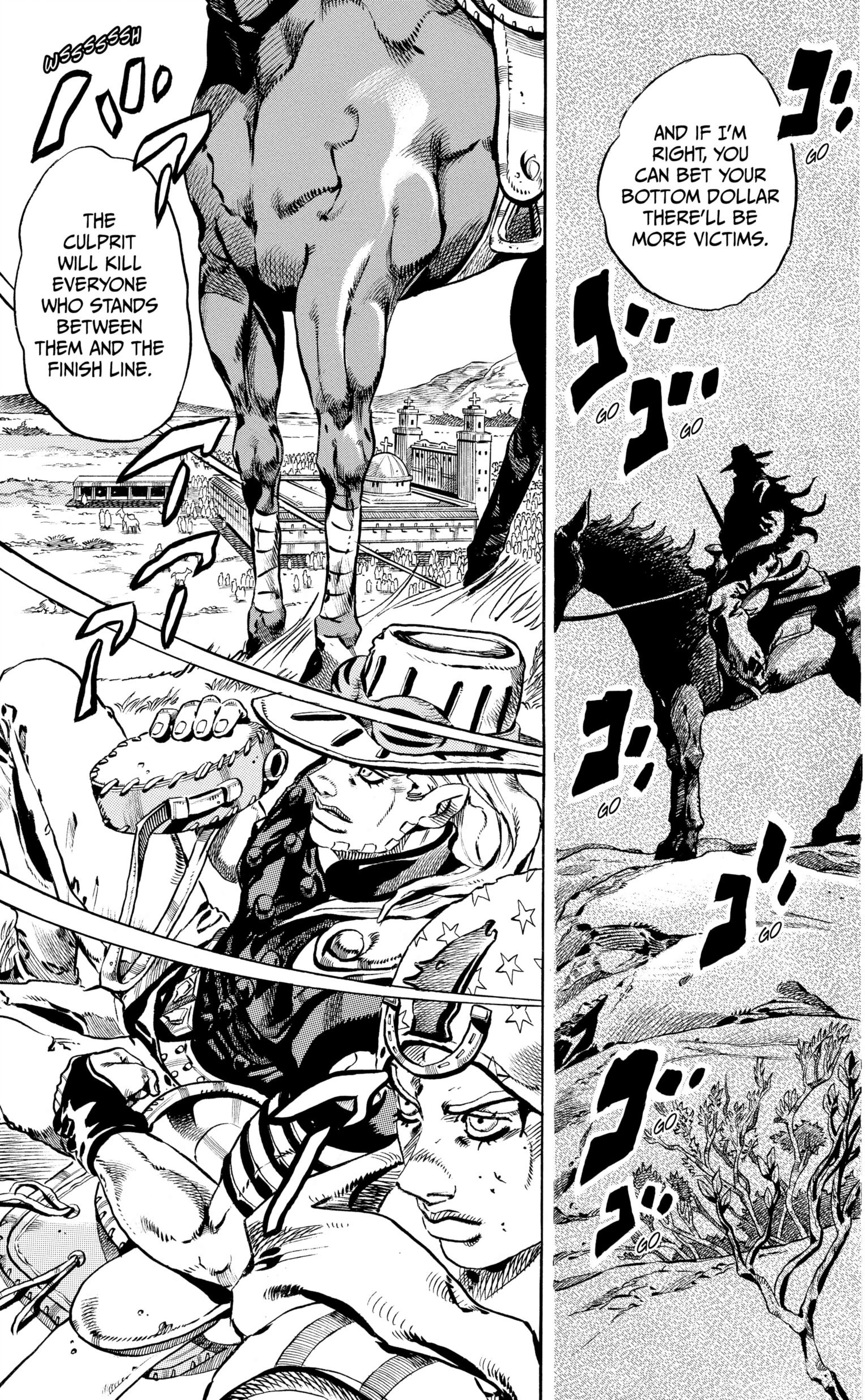

!?
GO
GO
GO
GO
GO
W... WHAT ON EARTH...
...IS THAT?
SHERIFF

ズ
DOOM
MY WIFE! TAKE MY WIFE BACK TO THE TRAIN!
TAKE HER BACK TO THE TRAIN RIGHT NOW!!
SHERIFF
ドド
DO
ド
DO
ドー
DO
ドドドドド
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO


WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?!
WHO ARE THOSE PEOPLE?
ARE... ARE THERE THREE OF THEM?!
THE ONE IN FRONT IS MARK BECKER. IN THE BACK IS DAVID HAGEN. AND ON THE RIGHT IS PAUL LUKATHER.
ONLY THING THEY HAD IS COMMON WAS COMPETING IN YOUR RACE.
THEIR HORSES WERE DISCOVERED RUNNING WILD JUST OUTSIDE THE GROVE.
OTHER RIDERS REPORTED SEEING THEM RACING SOMEWHERE BETWEEN 100TH AND 200TH PLACE, ABOUT FOUR OR FIVE MILES FROM THE STARTING LINE.
NO ONE WITNESSED THEM STOPPING OR FALLING FROM THEIR HORSES.

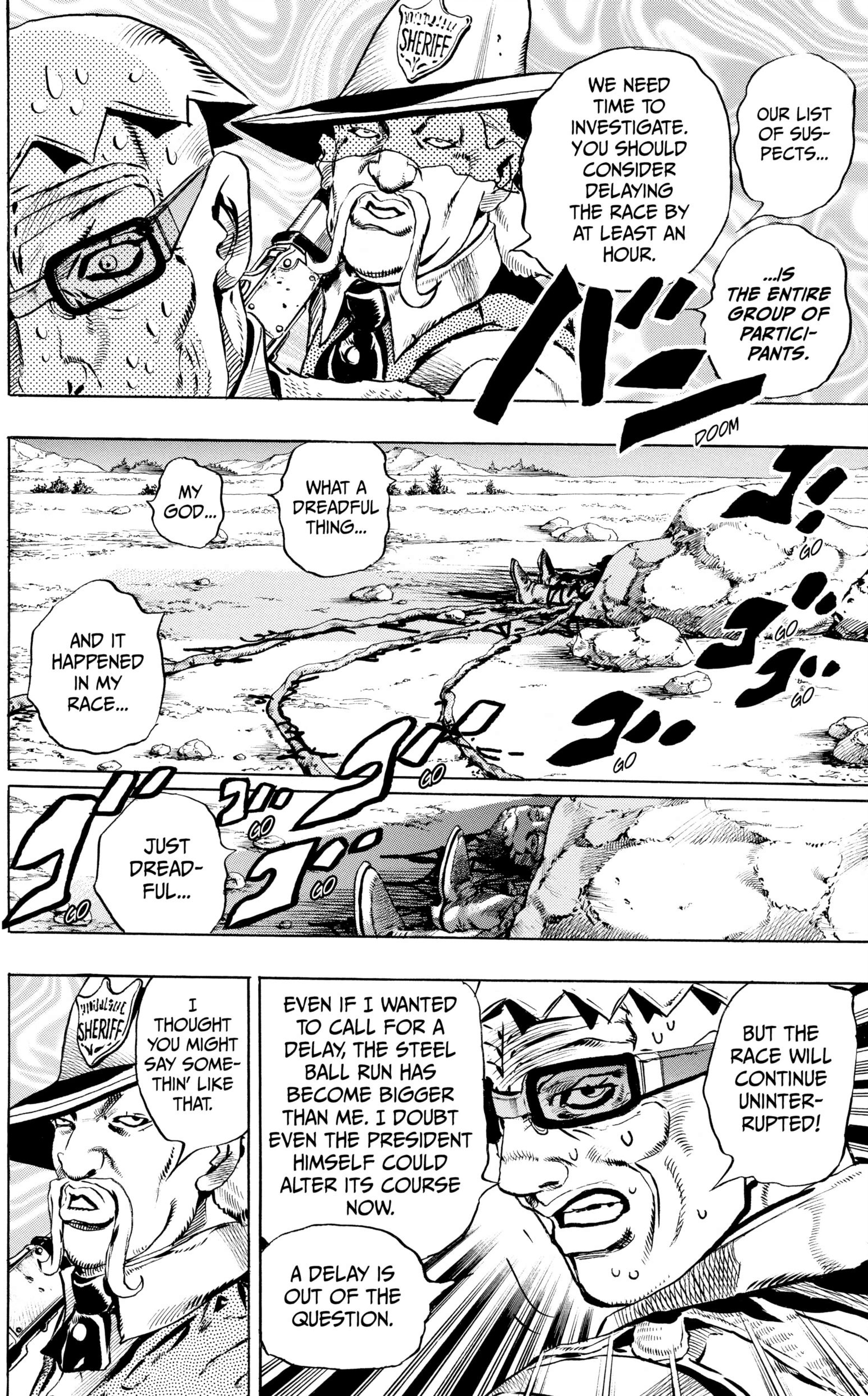

WHAT COULD HAVE POSSIBLY CAUSED THIS?! EXPLAIN IT TO ME!
WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED TO THEM?!
MAYBE ANIMALS DONE IT?
EXCEPT EVEN IF A BUZZARD DRAGGED OUT EACH MAN'S GUTS 30 FEET, IT WOULDN'T LINE 'EM UP ALL NICE AND STRAIGHT LIKE THIS.
AND NO COUGAR WOULD USE A MAN'S INSIDES LIKE A ROPE TO DRAG HIM.
SO IF YOU'RE ASKIN' HOW THEY WERE KILLED, I AIN'T GOT A CLUE.
THEN WHAT *DID* DO THIS?!
...MR. STEEL.
THESE MEN WERE *MURDERED...*
THOSE MURDERS TOOK PLACE *DURING THE RACE.*
SOMEHOW, SOMEBODY KILLED THESE THREE MEN WHILE THEY WERE RACING. FAR AS I CAN FIGURE, THE KILLER MUST'VE KNOCKED THE VICTIMS OFF THEIR HORSES... AND USED A HORSE TO PULL OUT THESE MEN'S INTESTINES!
SHERIFF

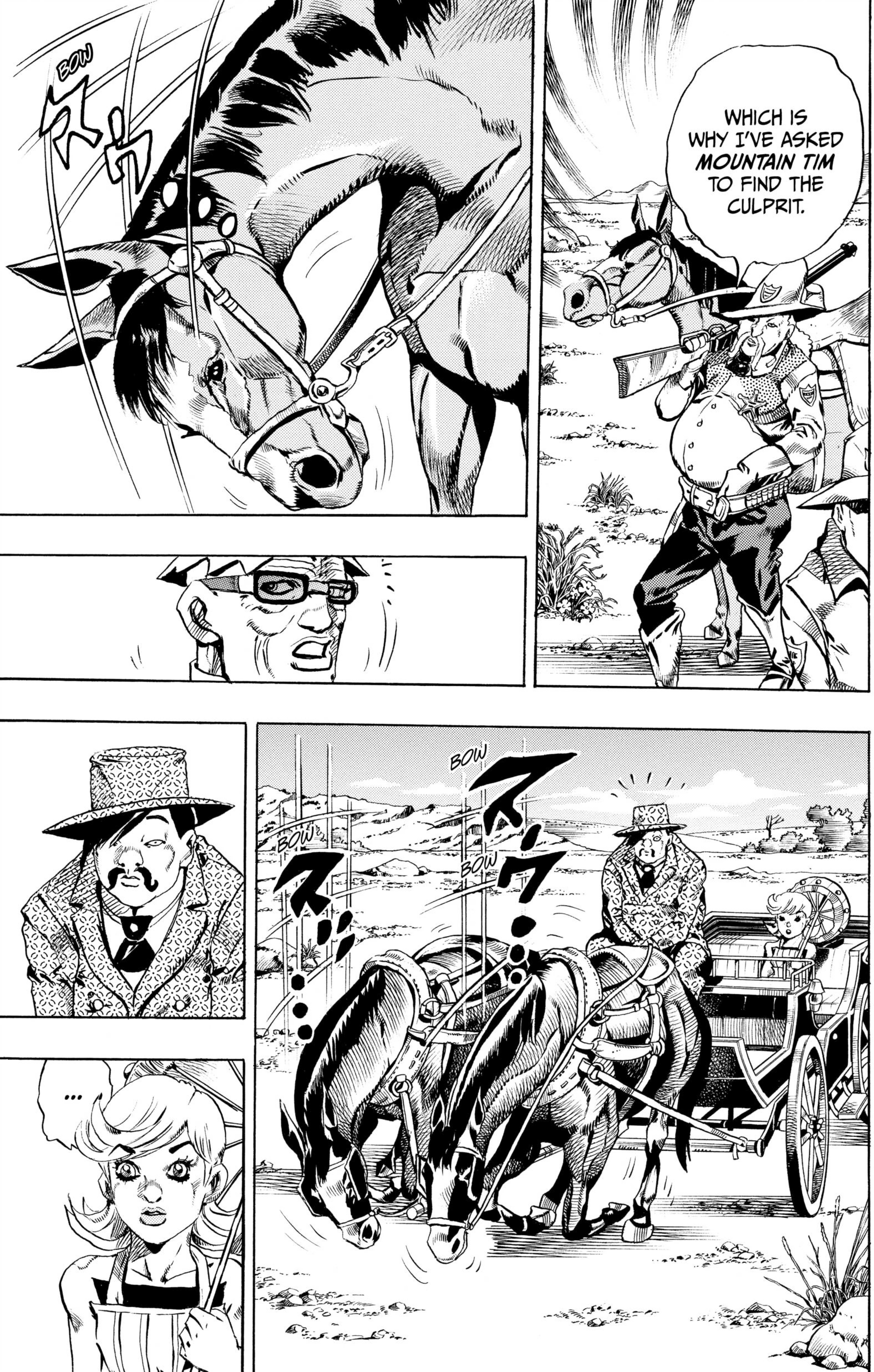

AND NOT ONE SOUL SAW IT HAPPEN!
THREE THOUSAND AND SOME-ODD RACERS RIDING SIDE BY SIDE, AND NOT ONE WITNESS.
TH... THAT'S ABSURD!
WHY WOULD ANYONE DO THAT?
ドドドドド
DO DO DO DO DO
WELL, I'M JUST SPECULATIN' HERE, BUT...
...STANDS TO REASON THE KILLER IS SOMEONE AMONG THE PARTICIPANTS.
SOMEONE WHO WANTS THE $50 MILLION PRIZE. SOMEONE WANTS TO RAISE THEIR POSITION IN THE RACE.
SOME-ONE INSANE.


AND IF I'M RIGHT, YOU CAN BET YOUR BOTTOM DOLLAR THERE'LL BE MORE VICTIMS.
GO
GO
GO
GO
GO
GO
GO
WSSSSSSH
THE CULPRIT WILL KILL EVERYONE WHO STANDS BETWEEN THEM AND THE FINISH LINE.

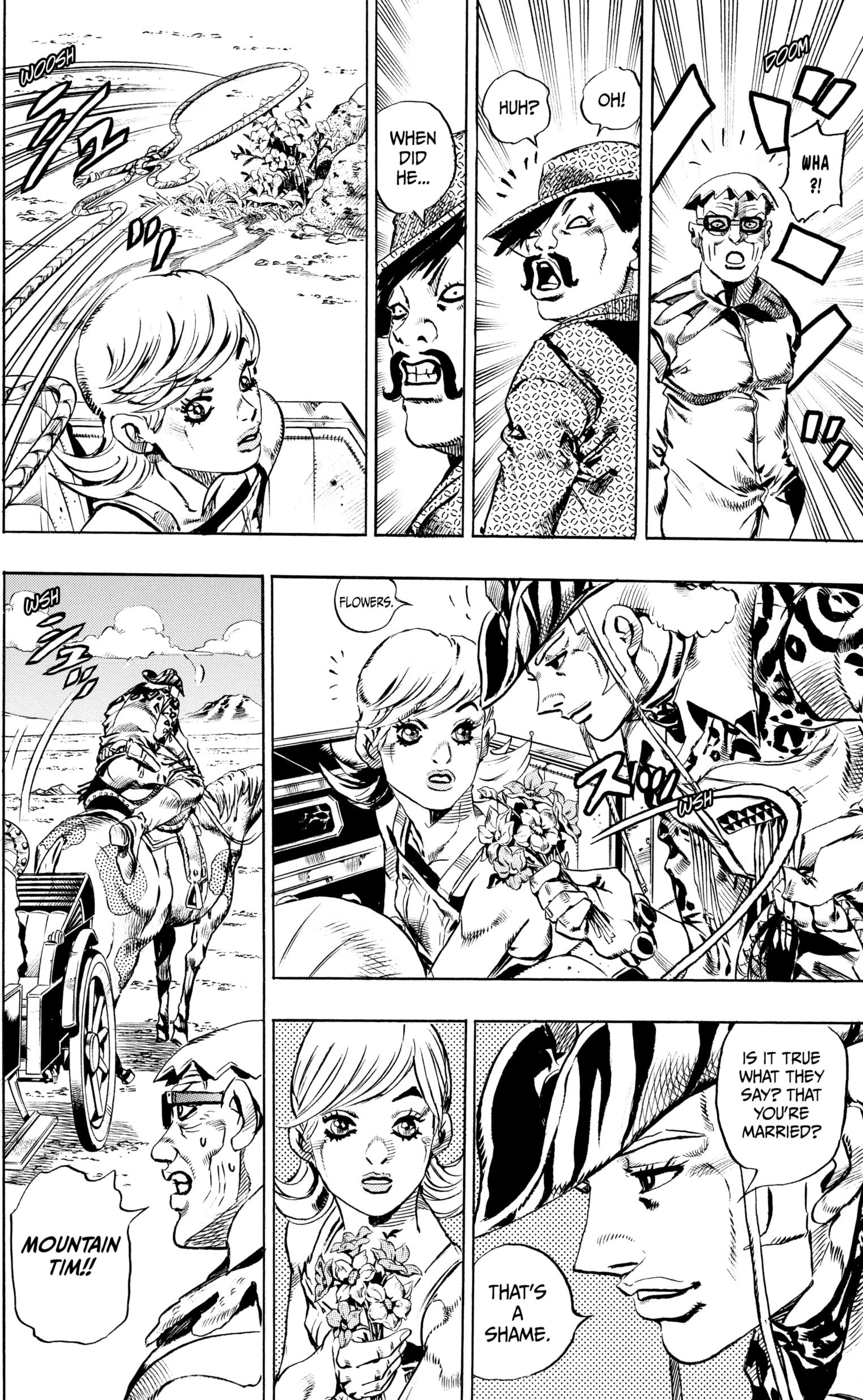
CHAPTER 13:

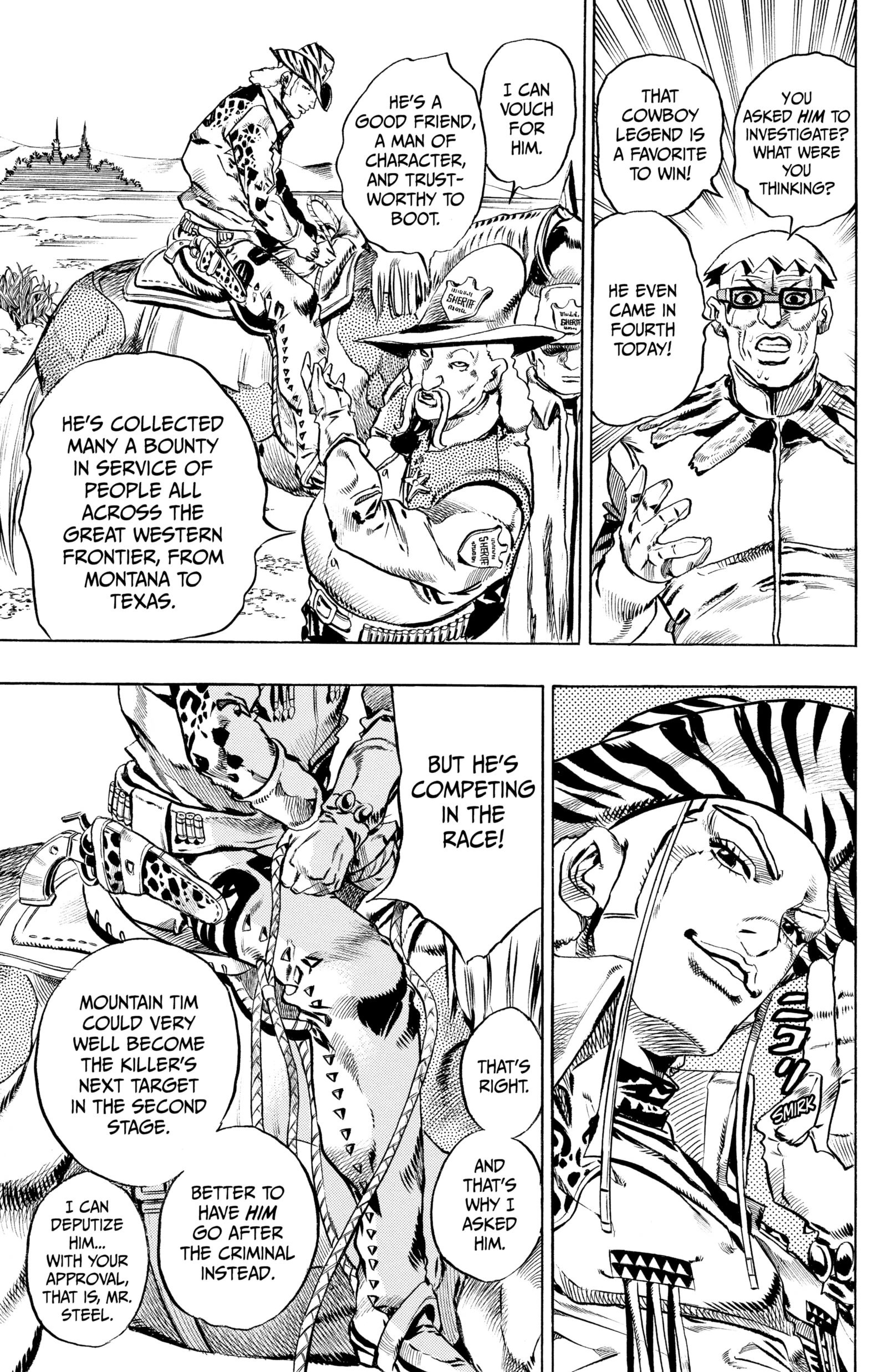
The Sheriff's Request to Mountain Tim

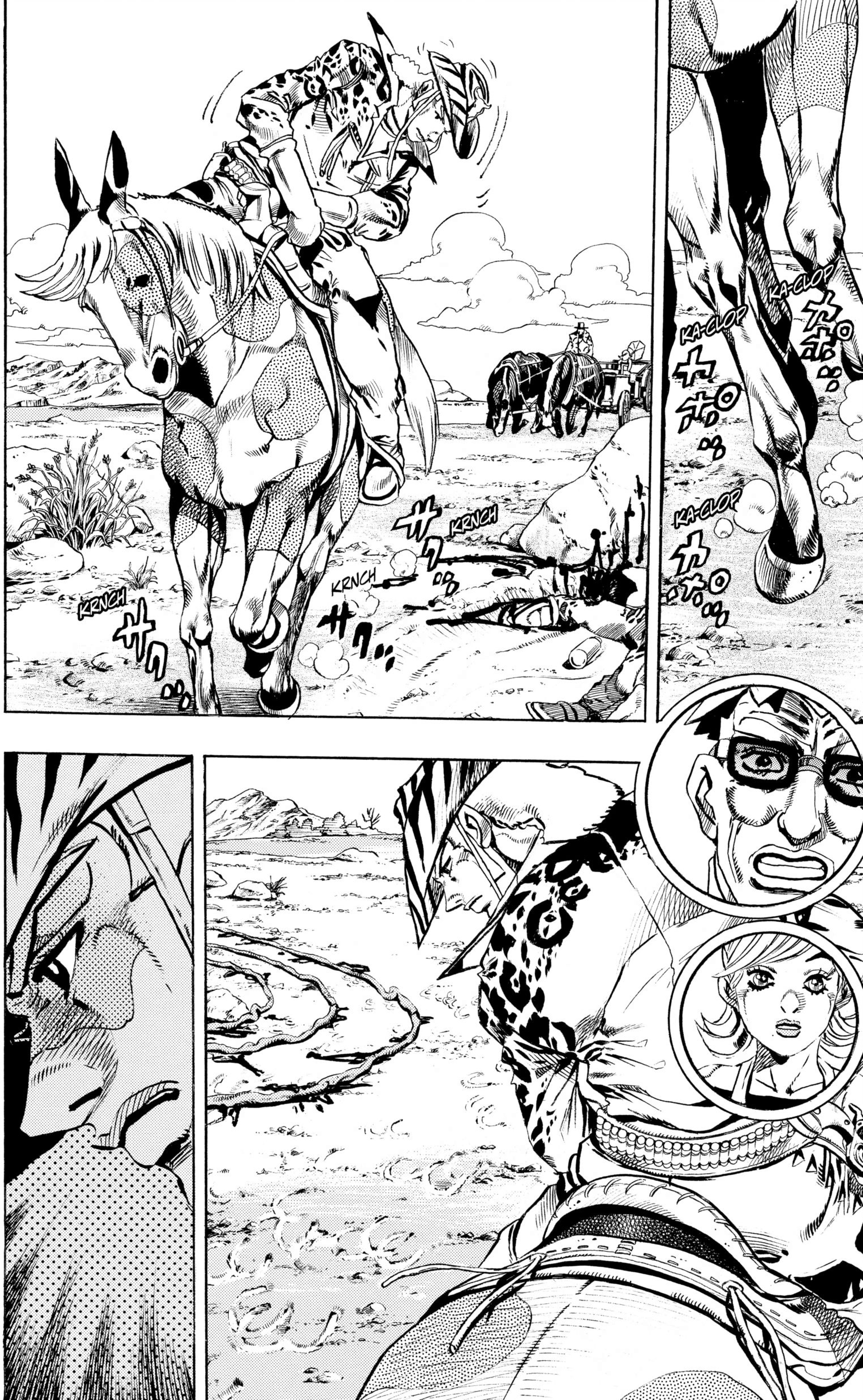

OUR LIST OF SUSPECTS...
...IS THE ENTIRE GROUP OF PARTICIPANTS.
WE NEED TIME TO INVESTIGATE. YOU SHOULD CONSIDER DELAYING THE RACE BY AT LEAST AN HOUR.
DOOM
WHAT A DREADFUL THING...
MY GOD...
AND IT HAPPENED IN MY RACE...
GO
GO
GO
GO
GO
GO
GO
GO
JUST DREADFUL...
BUT THE RACE WILL CONTINUE UNINTERRUPTED!
EVEN IF I WANTED TO CALL FOR A DELAY, THE STEEL BALL RUN HAS BECOME BIGGER THAN ME. I DOUBT EVEN THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF COULD ALTER ITS COURSE NOW.
A DELAY IS OUT OF THE QUESTION.
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT SAY SOMETHIN' LIKE THAT.
SHERIFF
SHERIFF


WHICH IS WHY I'VE ASKED *MOUNTAIN TIM* TO FIND THE CULPRIT.
BOW
BOW
BOW
BOW
…

...
WHAT'S GOING ON?
WHY ARE THE HORSES ACTING LIKE THAT?
THAT'S 'CAUSE THEY'RE IN THE PRESENCE OF *MOUNTAIN TIM*.
HE'S A MAN OF MANY MYSTERIES. HORSES BOW THEIR HEADS TO HIM IN RESPECT.


DOOM
WHA ?!
OH!
HUH?
WHEN DID HE...
WOOSH
FLOWERS.
WSH
IS IT TRUE WHAT THEY SAY? THAT YOU'RE MARRIED?
THAT'S A SHAME.
WSH
MOUNTAIN TIM!!


YOU ASKED *HIM* TO INVESTIGATE? WHAT WERE YOU THINKING?
THAT COWBOY LEGEND IS A FAVORITE TO WIN!
HE EVEN CAME IN FOURTH TODAY!
I CAN VOUCH FOR HIM.
HE'S A GOOD FRIEND, A MAN OF CHARACTER, AND TRUSTWORTHY TO BOOT.
SHERIFF
HE'S COLLECTED MANY A BOUNTY IN SERVICE OF PEOPLE ALL ACROSS THE GREAT WESTERN FRONTIER, FROM MONTANA TO TEXAS.
SMIRK
BUT HE'S COMPETING IN THE RACE!
THAT'S RIGHT.
AND THAT'S WHY I ASKED HIM.
MOUNTAIN TIM COULD VERY WELL BECOME THE KILLER'S NEXT TARGET IN THE SECOND STAGE.
BETTER TO HAVE *HIM* GO AFTER THE CRIMINAL INSTEAD.
I CAN DEPUTIZE HIM... WITH YOUR APPROVAL, THAT IS, MR. STEEL.


KA-CLOP
カポッ
KA-CLOP
カポッ
KA-CLOP
カポッ
KRNCH
サクッ
KRNCH
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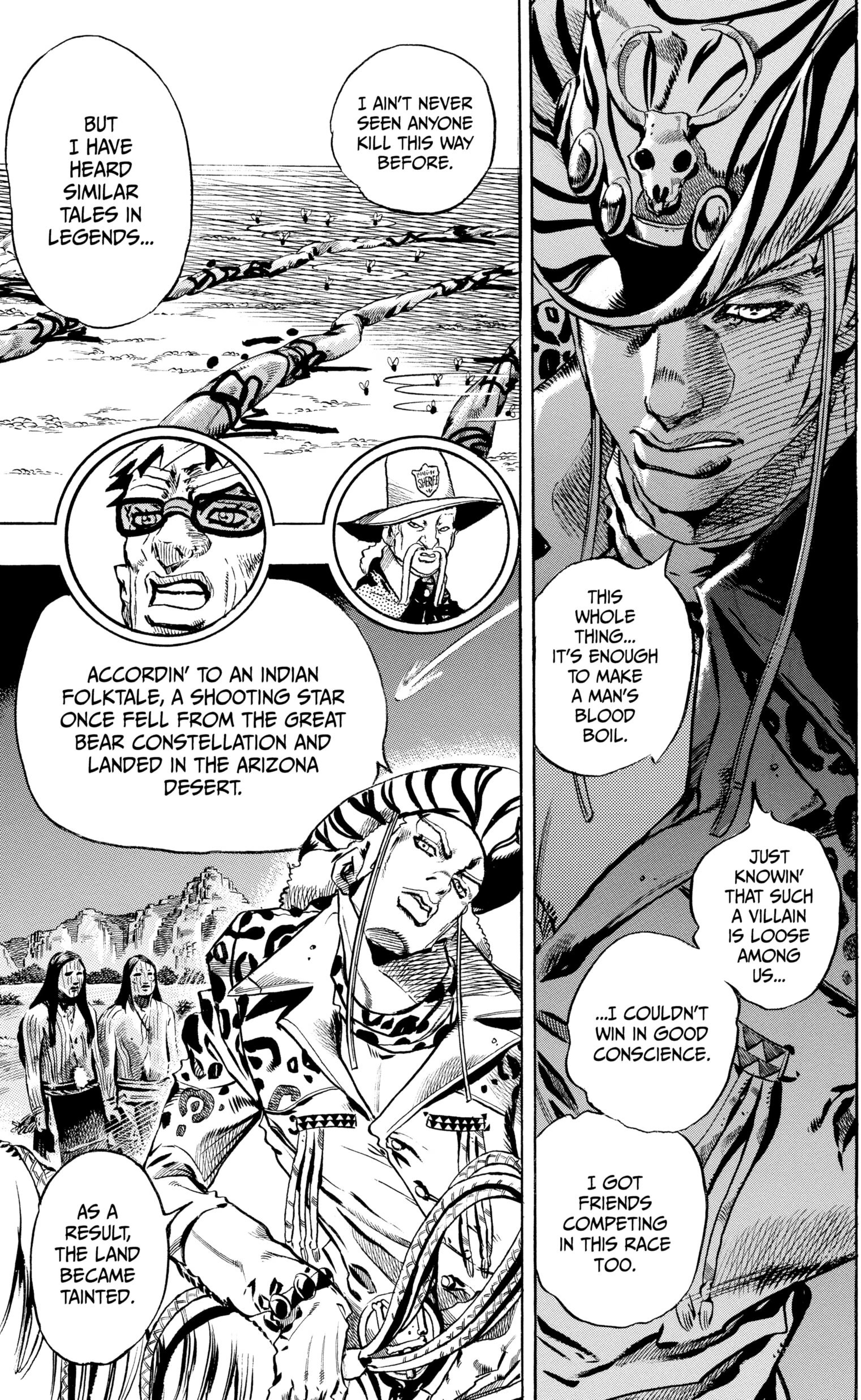
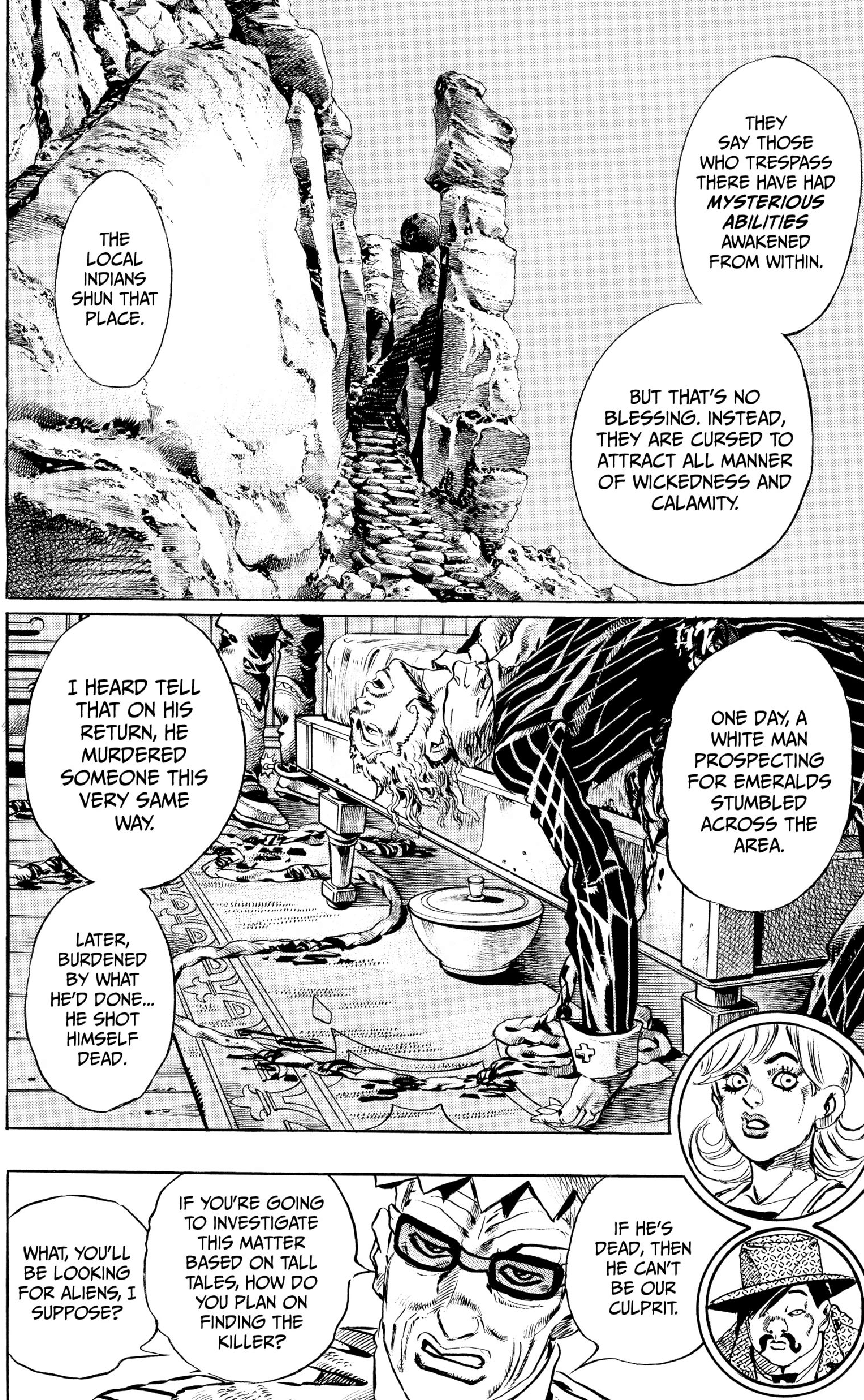
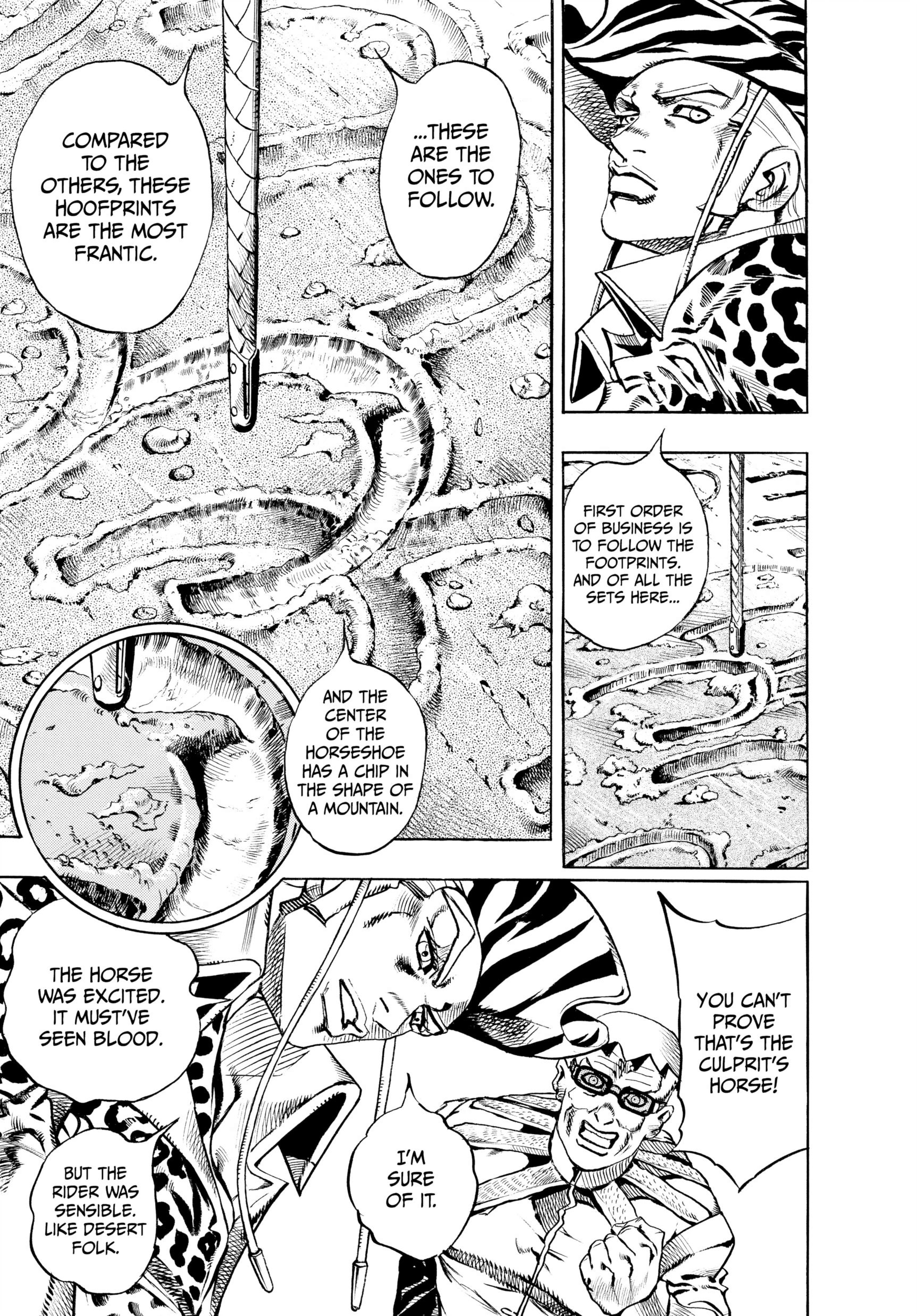
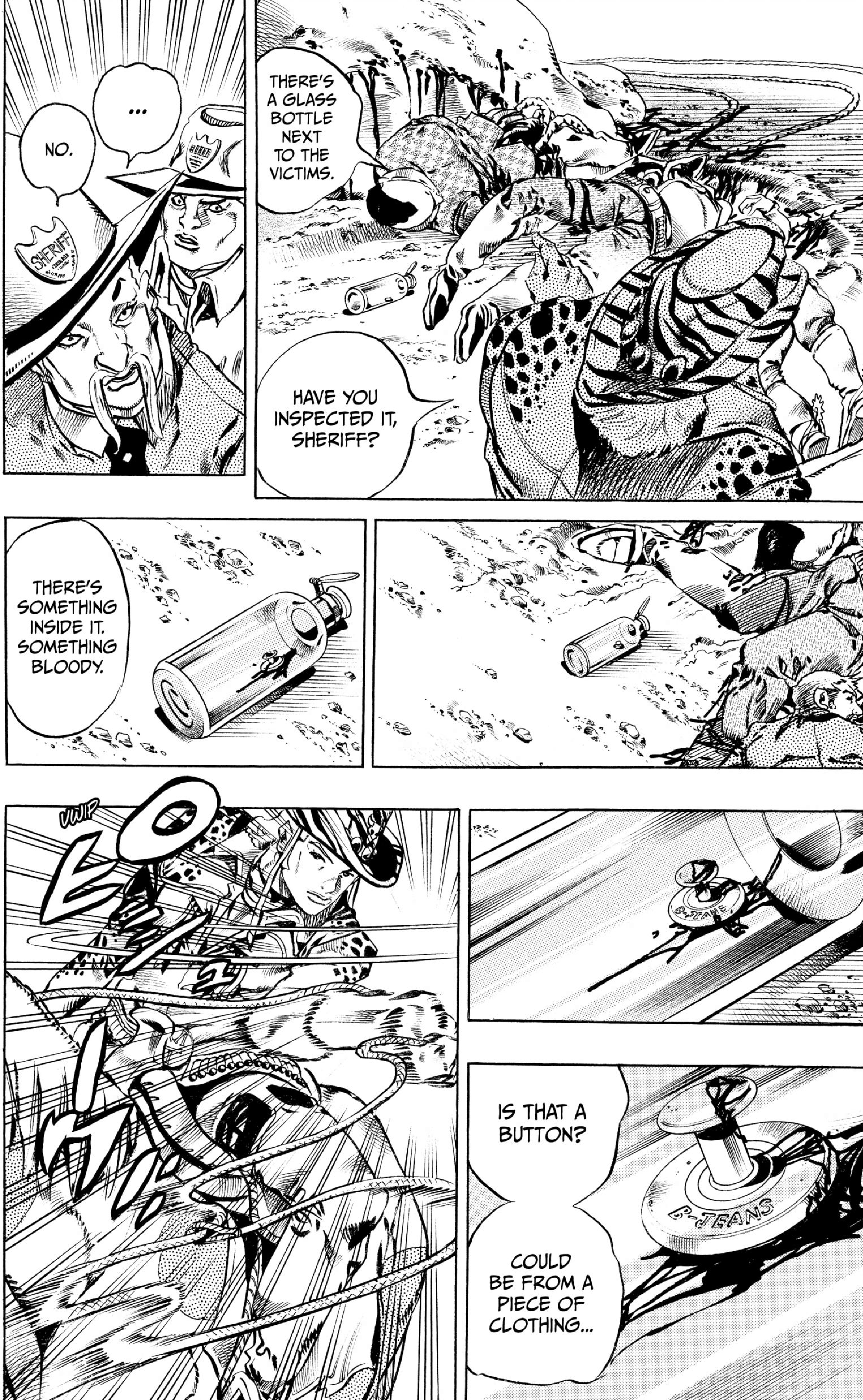
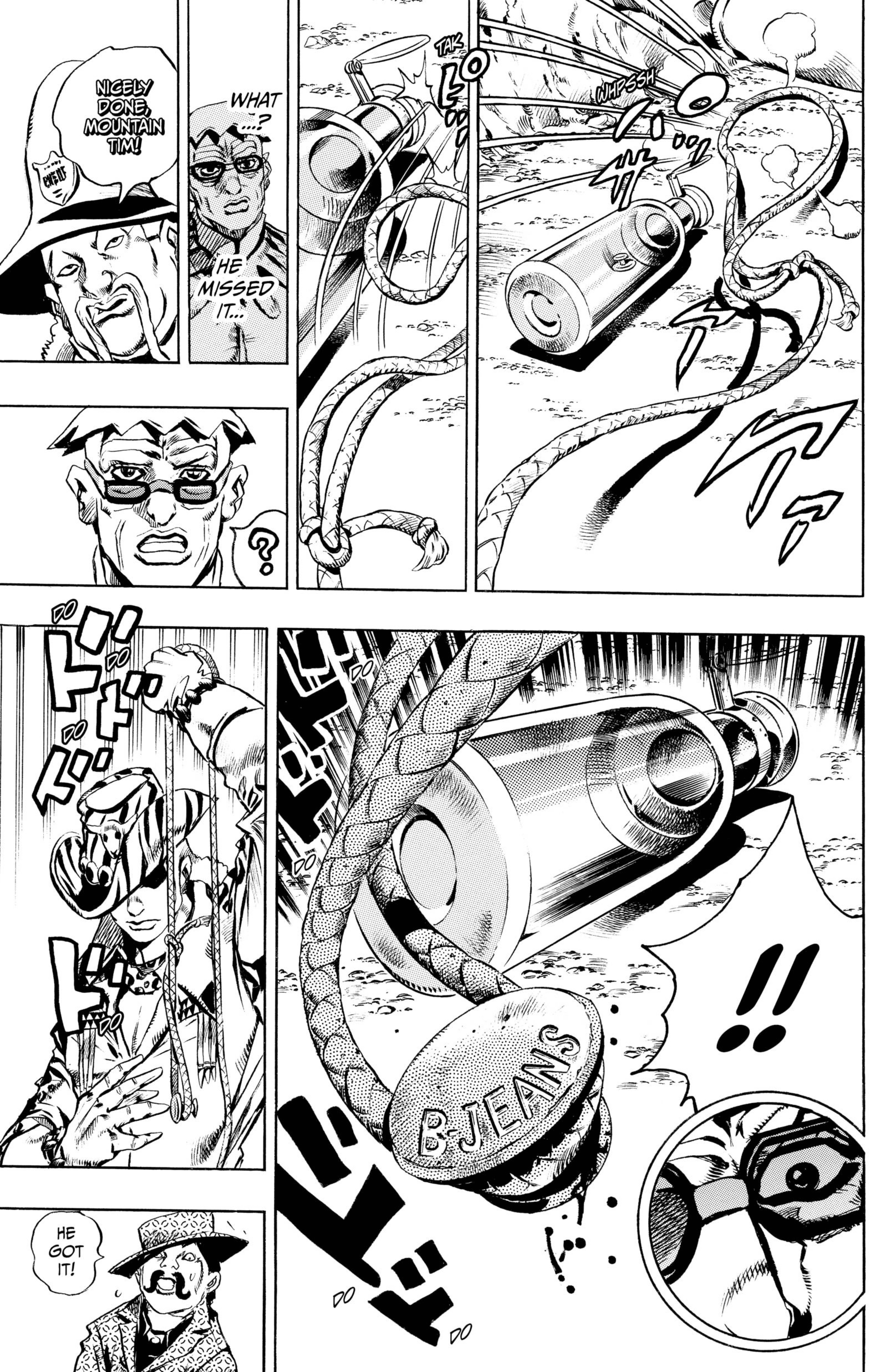
KRNCH
サクッ

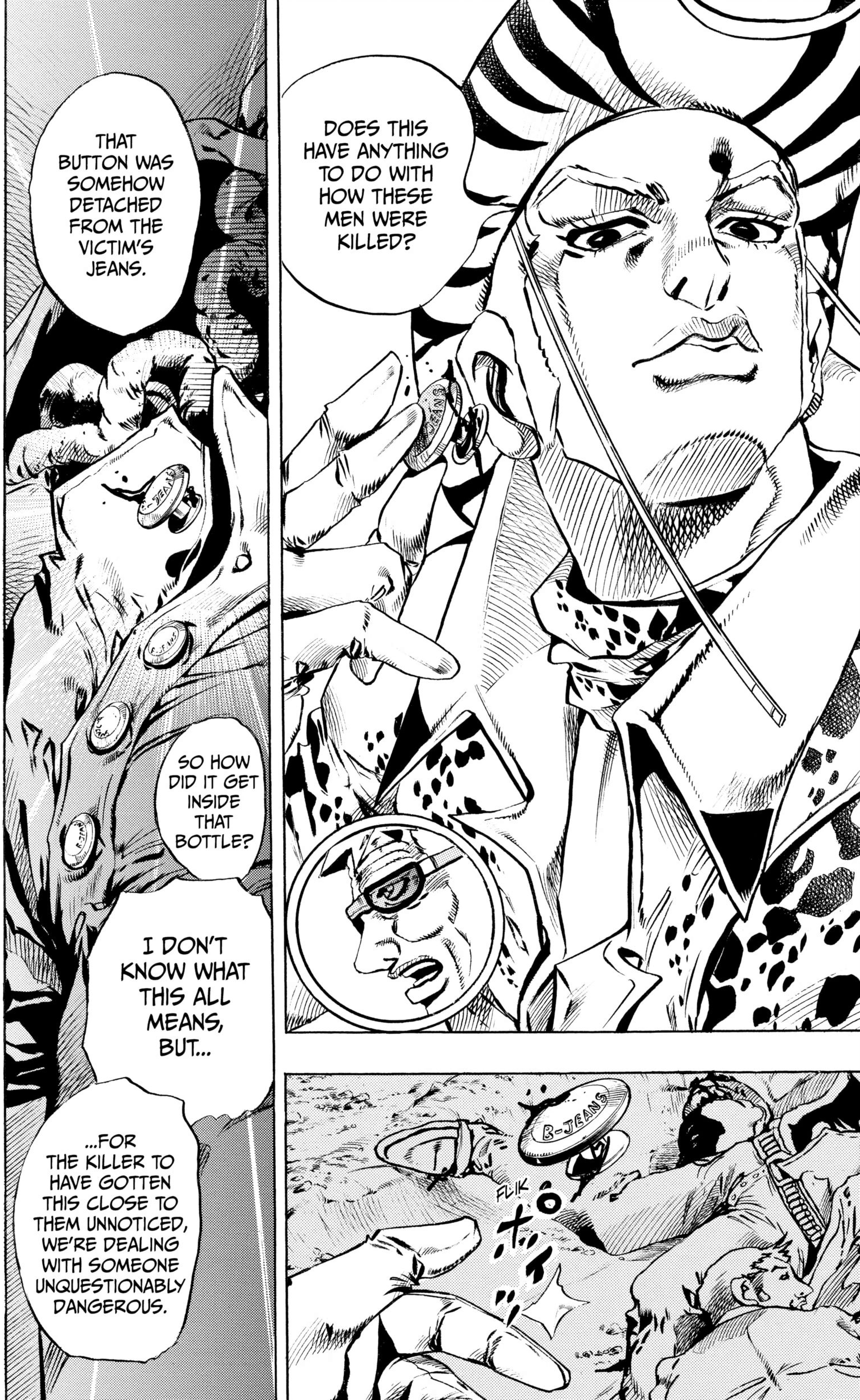

THIS WHOLE THING... IT'S ENOUGH TO MAKE A MAN'S BLOOD BOIL.
JUST KNOWIN' THAT SUCH A VILLAIN IS LOOSE AMONG US...
...I COULDN'T WIN IN GOOD CONSCIENCE.
I GOT FRIENDS COMPETING IN THIS RACE TOO.
I AIN'T NEVER SEEN ANYONE KILL THIS WAY BEFORE.
BUT I HAVE HEARD SIMILAR TALES IN LEGENDS...
SHERIFF
ACCORDIN' TO AN INDIAN FOLKTALE, A SHOOTING STAR ONCE FELL FROM THE GREAT BEAR CONSTELLATION AND LANDED IN THE ARIZONA DESERT.
AS A RESULT, THE LAND BECAME TAINTED.

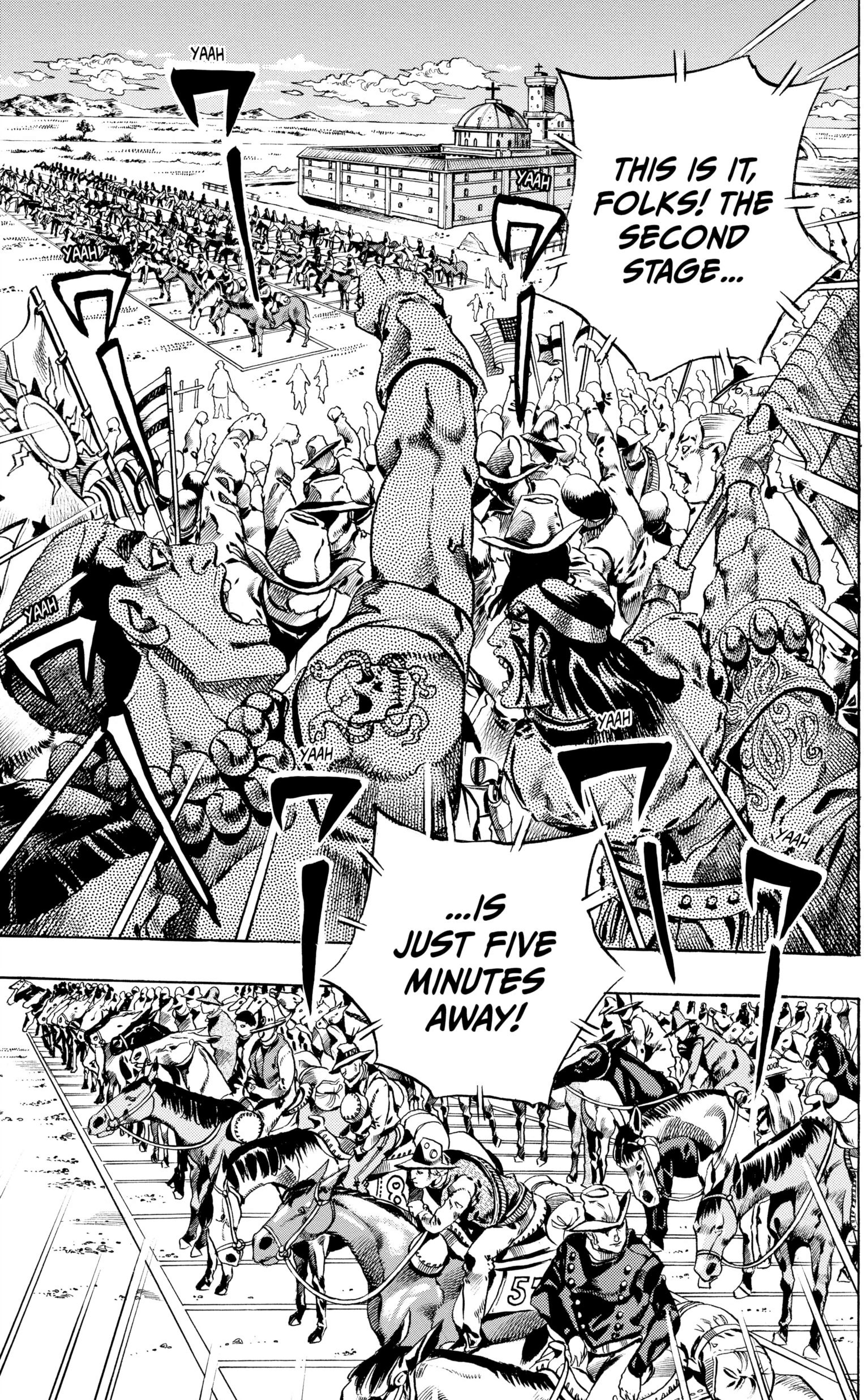

THEY SAY THOSE WHO TRESPASS THERE HAVE HAD ***MYSTERIOUS ABILITIES*** AWAKENED FROM WITHIN.
BUT THAT'S NO BLESSING. INSTEAD, THEY ARE CURSED TO ATTRACT ALL MANNER OF WICKEDNESS AND CALAMITY.
THE LOCAL INDIANS SHUN THAT PLACE.
ONE DAY, A WHITE MAN PROSPECTING FOR EMERALDS STUMBLED ACROSS THE AREA.
I HEARD TELL THAT ON HIS RETURN, HE MURDERED SOMEONE THIS VERY SAME WAY.
LATER, BURDENED BY WHAT HE'D DONE... HE SHOT HIMSELF DEAD.
IF HE'S DEAD, THEN HE CAN'T BE OUR CULPRIT.
IF YOU'RE GOING TO INVESTIGATE THIS MATTER BASED ON TALL TALES, HOW DO YOU PLAN ON FINDING THE KILLER?
WHAT, YOU'LL BE LOOKING FOR ALIENS, I SUPPOSE?


FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS IS TO FOLLOW THE FOOTPRINTS. AND OF ALL THE SETS HERE...
...THESE ARE THE ONES TO FOLLOW.
COMPARED TO THE OTHERS, THESE HOOFPRINTS ARE THE MOST FRANTIC.
AND THE CENTER OF THE HORSESHOE HAS A CHIP IN THE SHAPE OF A MOUNTAIN.
YOU CAN'T PROVE THAT'S THE CULPRIT'S HORSE!
I'M SURE OF IT.
THE HORSE WAS EXCITED. IT MUST'VE SEEN BLOOD.
BUT THE RIDER WAS SENSIBLE. LIKE DESERT FOLK.


THERE'S A GLASS BOTTLE NEXT TO THE VICTIMS.
HAVE YOU INSPECTED IT, SHERIFF?
...
NO.
SHERIFF
THERE'S SOMETHING INSIDE IT. SOMETHING BLOODY.
B-JEANS
IS THAT A BUTTON?
COULD BE FROM A PIECE OF CLOTHING...
VWIP

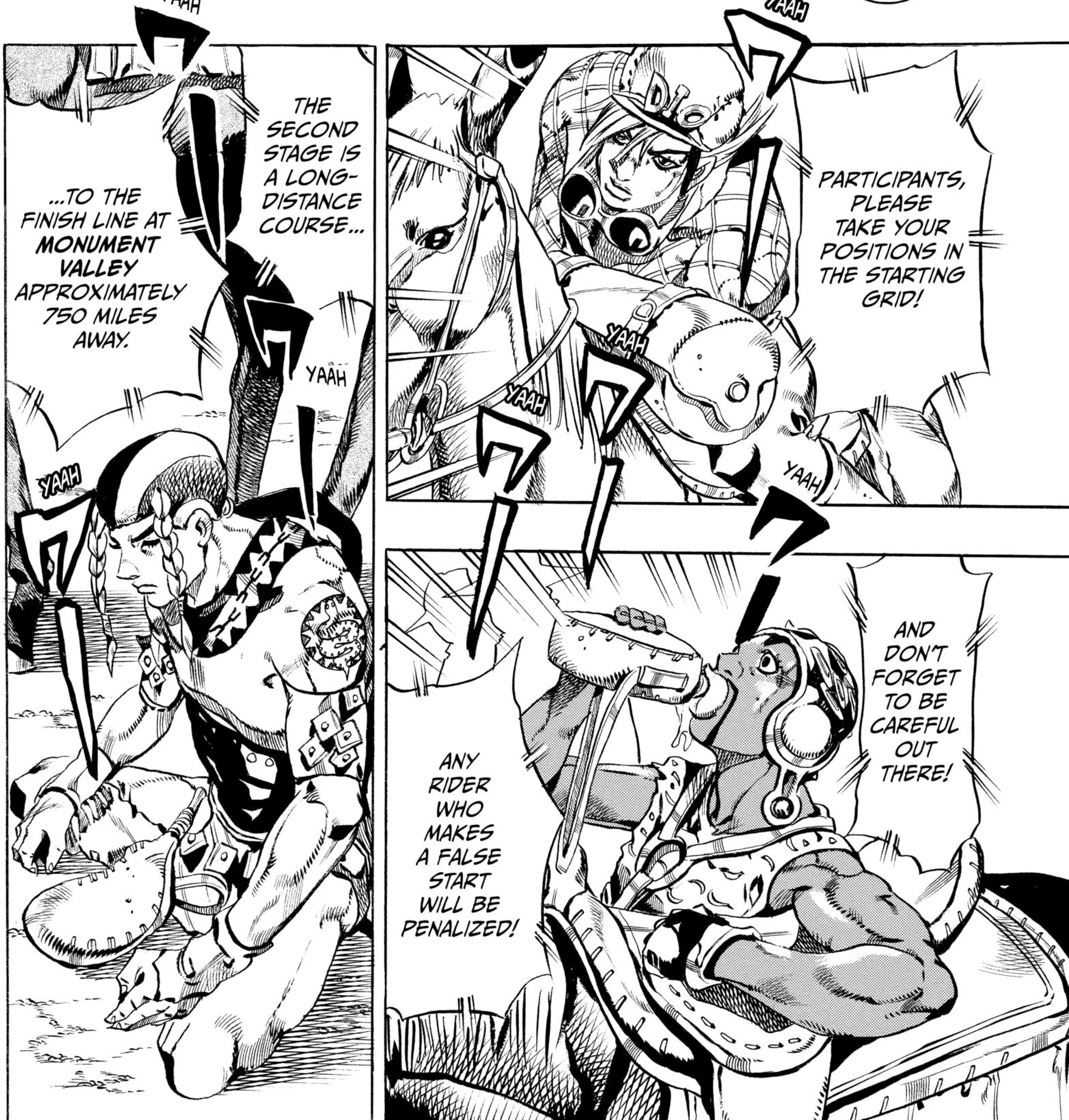

WHPSSH
TAK
WHAT ...?
HE MISSED IT...
NICELY DONE, MOUNTAIN TIM!
?
DO
B-JEANS
!!
DO
DO
DO DO DO DO DO
HE GOT IT!


DOES THIS HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH HOW THESE MEN WERE KILLED?
JEANS
THAT BUTTON WAS SOMEHOW DETACHED FROM THE VICTIM'S JEANS.
SO HOW DID IT GET INSIDE THAT BOTTLE?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS ALL MEANS, BUT...
...FOR THE KILLER TO HAVE GOTTEN THIS CLOSE TO THEM UNNOTICED, WE'RE DEALING WITH SOMEONE UNQUESTIONABLY DANGEROUS.
B-JEANS
FLIK
ポイッ


YAAH
THIS IS IT, FOLKS! THE SECOND STAGE...
YAAH
YAAH
YAAH
YAAH
YAAH
YAAH
...IS JUST FIVE MINUTES AWAY!

ARIZONA DESERT CROSSING

MONUMENT VALLEY


YAAH
PARTICIPANTS, PLEASE TAKE YOUR POSITIONS IN THE STARTING GRID!
YAAH
YAAH
YAAH
AND DON'T FORGET TO BE CAREFUL OUT THERE!
ANY RIDER WHO MAKES A FALSE START WILL BE PENALIZED!
YAAH
THE SECOND STAGE IS A LONG-DISTANCE COURSE...
...TO THE FINISH LINE AT MONUMENT VALLEY APPROXIMATELY 750 MILES AWAY.
YAAH
YAAH

SECOND STAGE

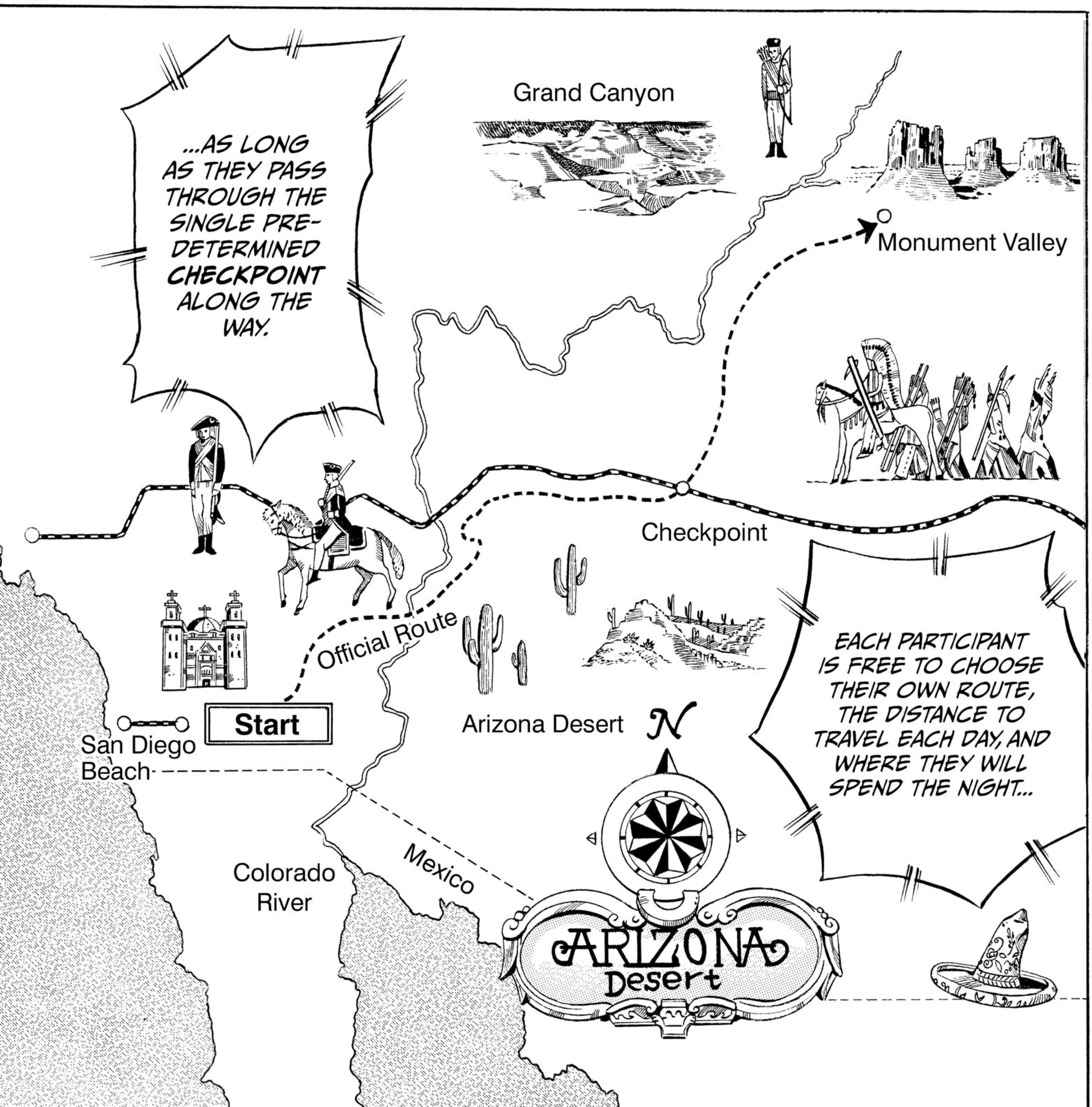
Santa Maria Novella Church➡Monument Valley

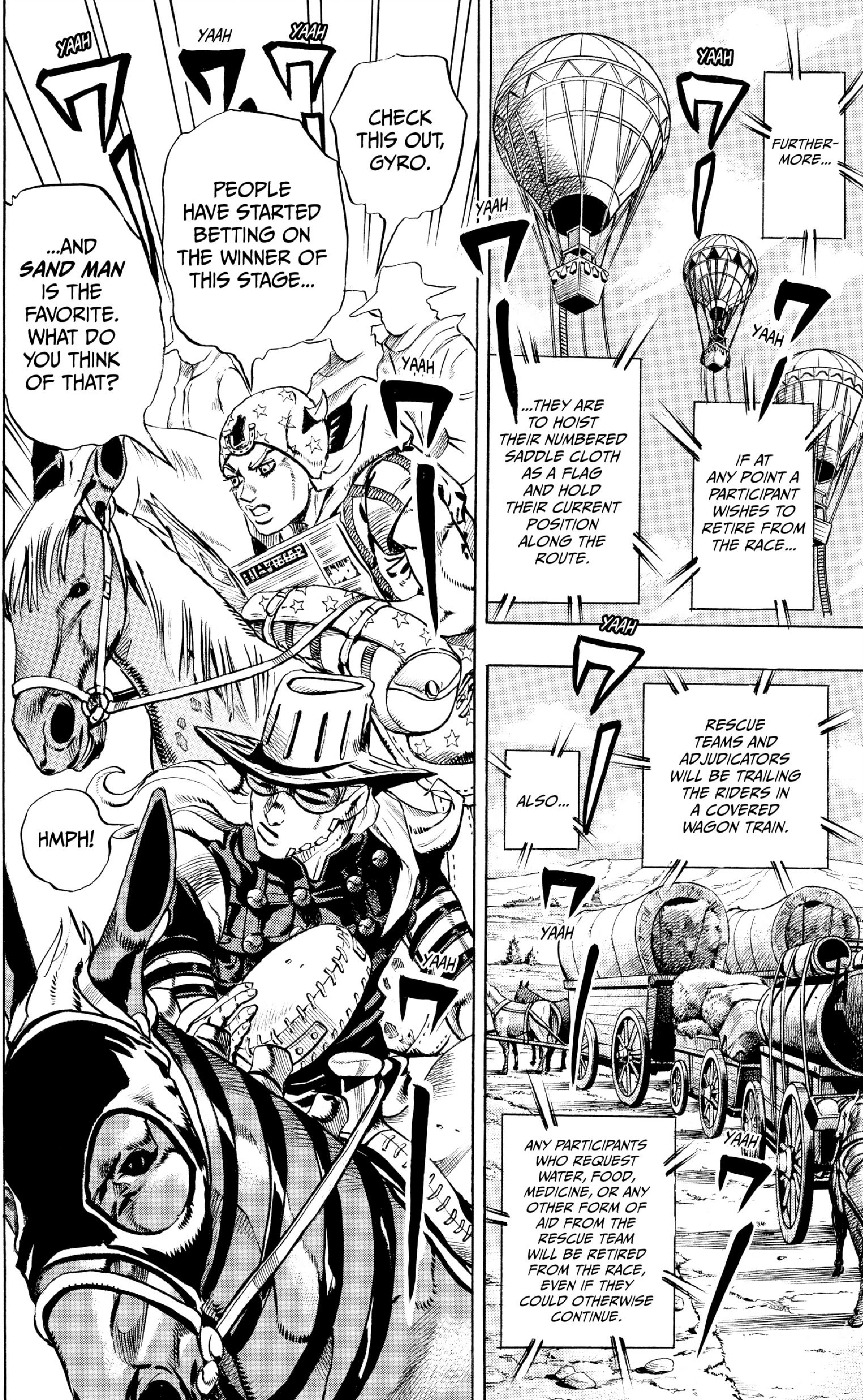
(750 miles, estimated finish time 12–18 days)

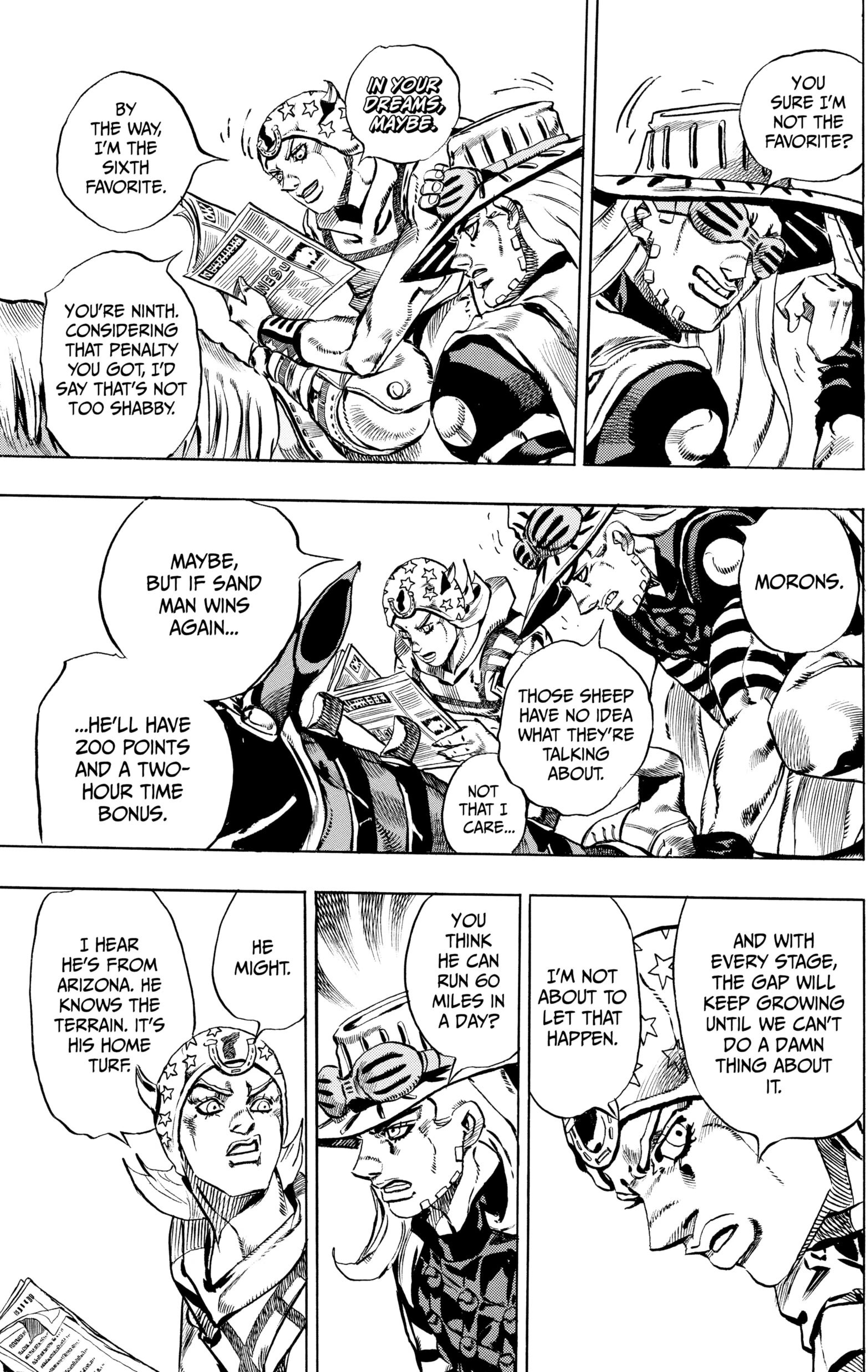
Participants: 3,770

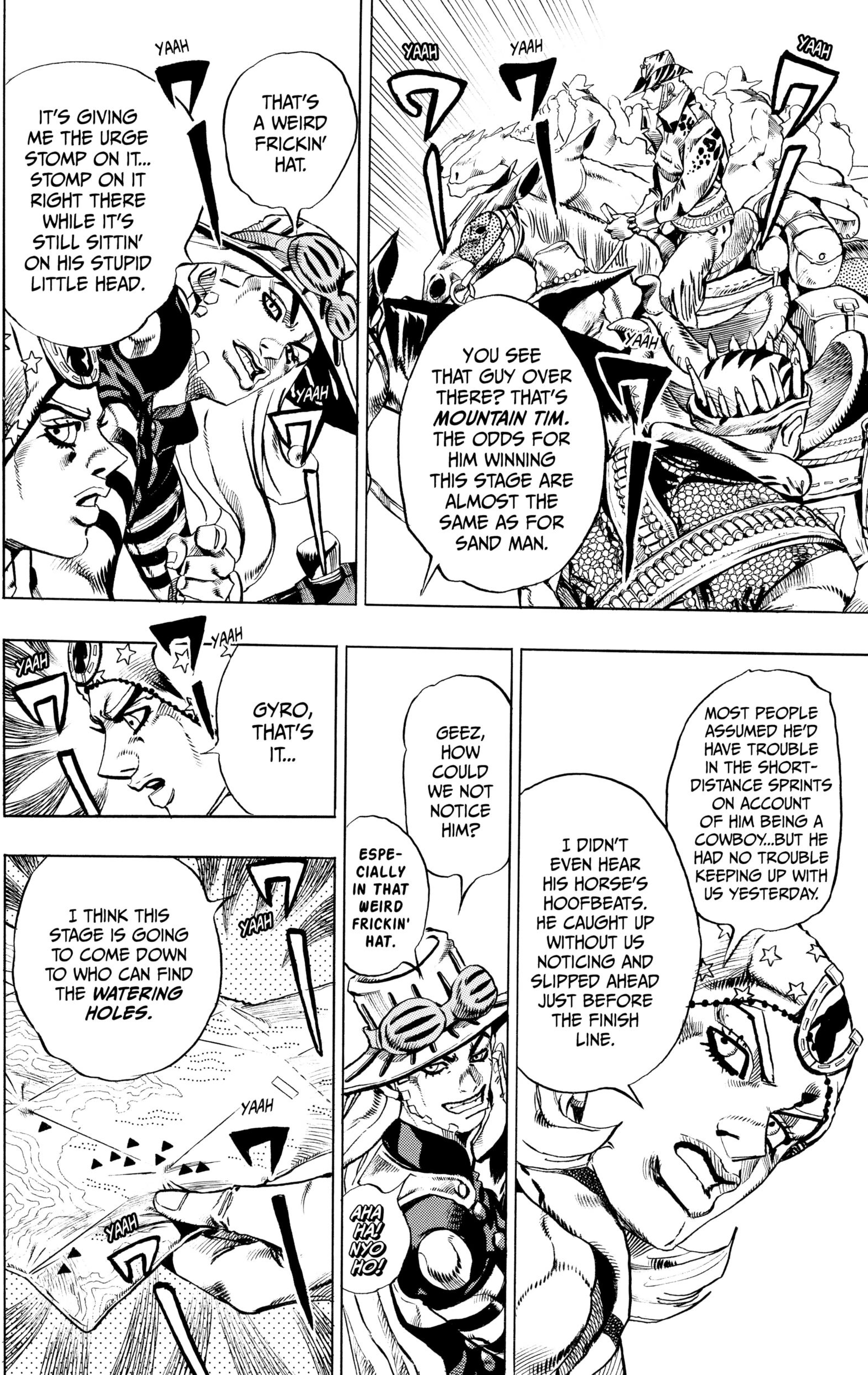
Starting Time: 10 a.m. September 26, 1890

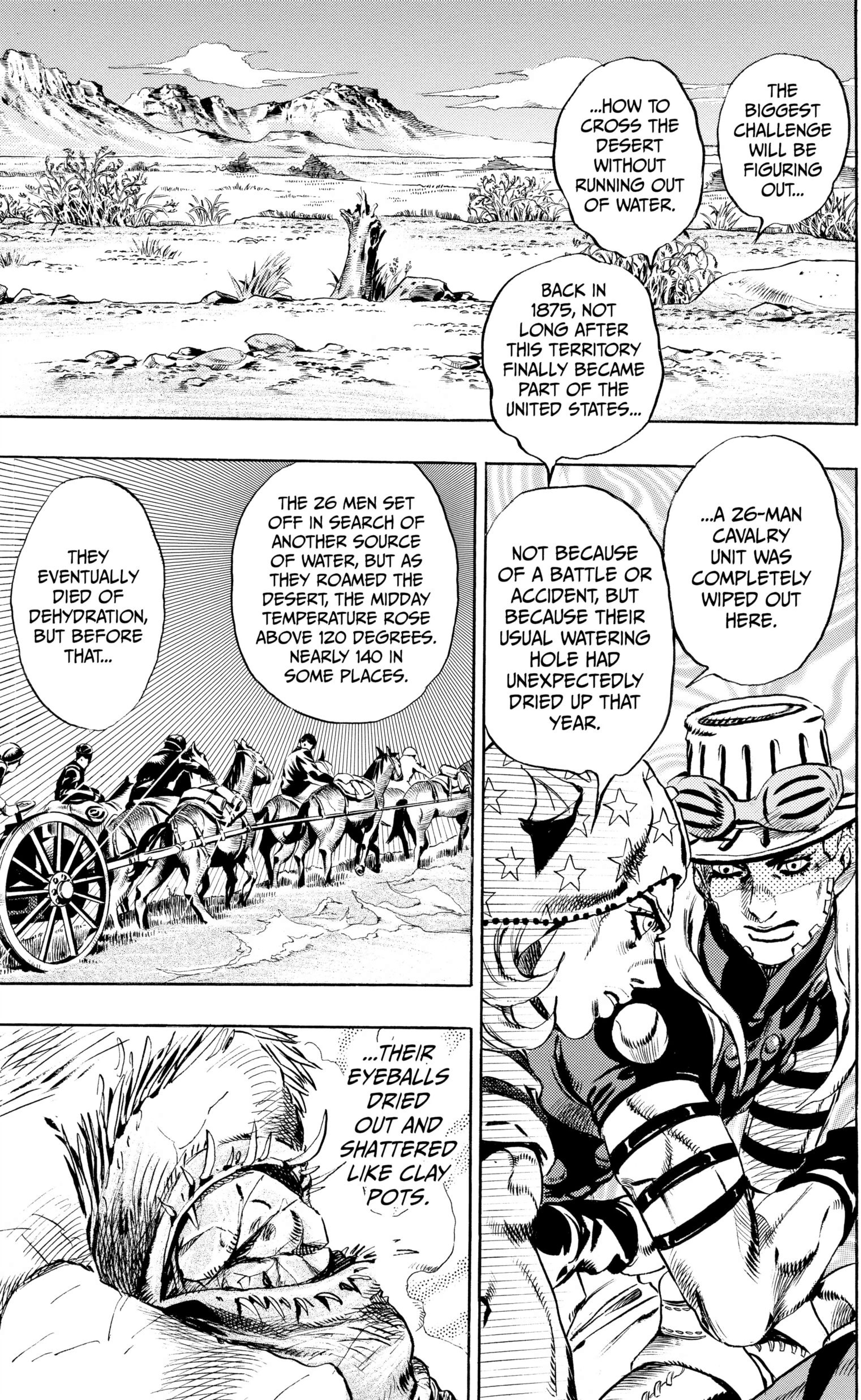
Stage Prize: $10,000, one-hour time bonus, and 100 points

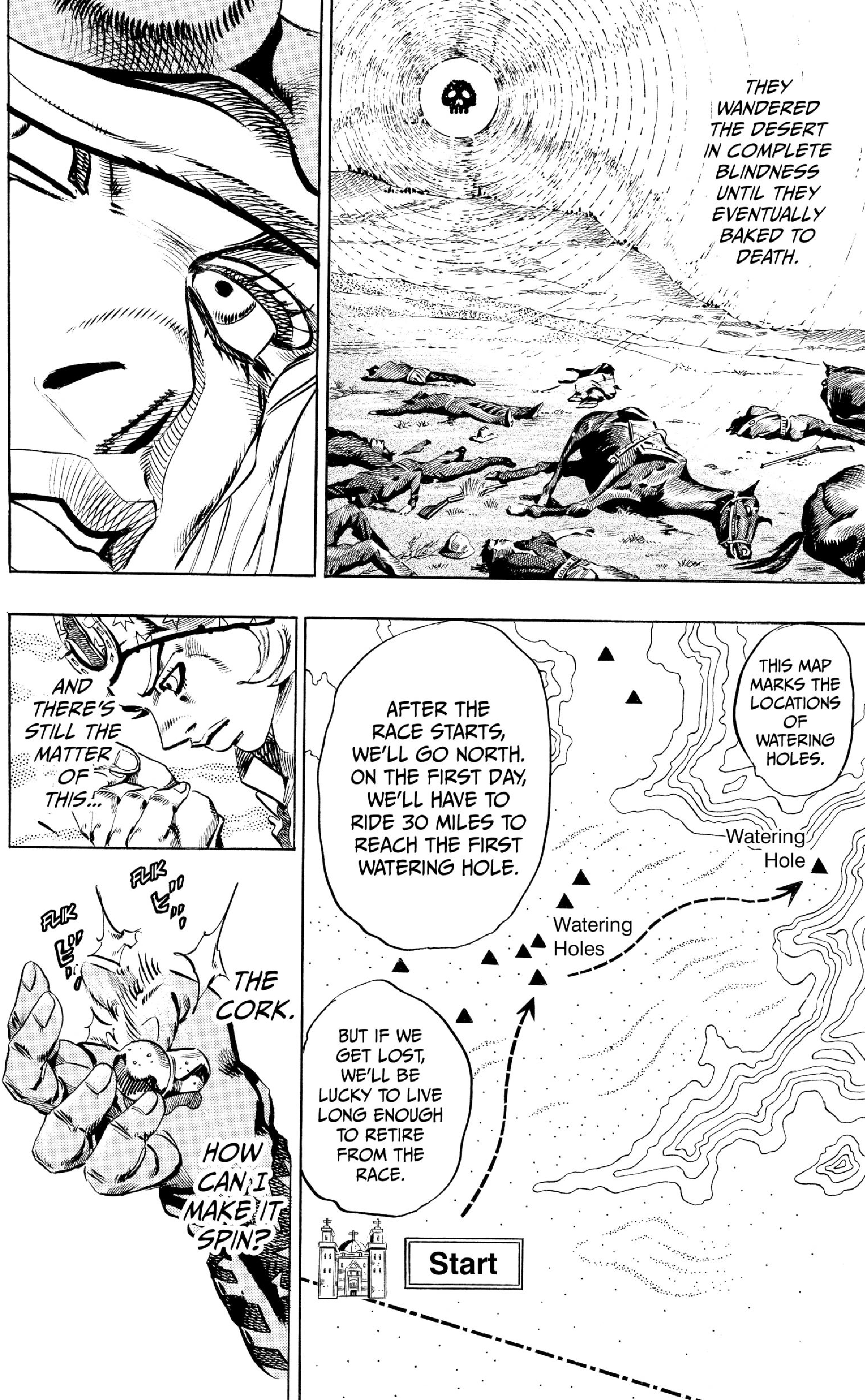

...AS LONG AS THEY PASS THROUGH THE SINGLE PREDETERMINED CHECKPOINT ALONG THE WAY.
Grand Canyon
Monument Valley
Checkpoint
Official Route
Start
San Diego Beach
Arizona Desert
N
EACH PARTICIPANT IS FREE TO CHOOSE THEIR OWN ROUTE, THE DISTANCE TO TRAVEL EACH DAY, AND WHERE THEY WILL SPEND THE NIGHT...
Colorado River
Mexico
ARIZONA Desert

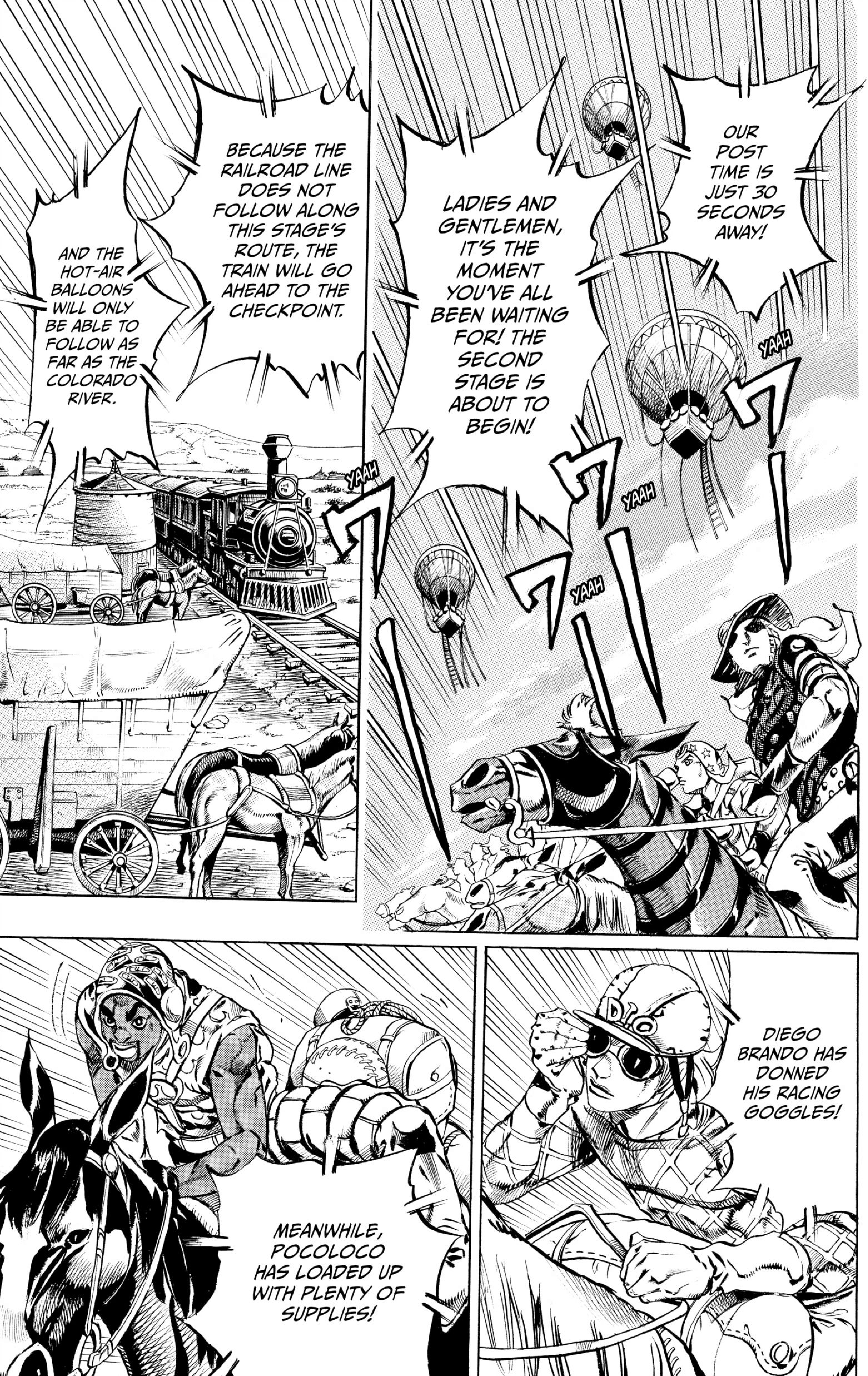

YAAH
FURTHER-MORE...
YAAH
YAAH
IF AT ANY POINT A PARTICIPANT WISHES TO RETIRE FROM THE RACE...
...THEY ARE TO HOIST THEIR NUMBERED SADDLE CLOTH AS A FLAG AND HOLD THEIR CURRENT POSITION ALONG THE ROUTE.
YAAH
ALSO...
RESCUE TEAMS AND ADJUDICATORS WILL BE TRAILING THE RIDERS IN A COVERED WAGON TRAIN.
YAAH
YAAH
ANY PARTICIPANTS WHO REQUEST WATER, FOOD, MEDICINE, OR ANY OTHER FORM OF AID FROM THE RESCUE TEAM WILL BE RETIRED FROM THE RACE, EVEN IF THEY COULD OTHERWISE CONTINUE.
YAAH
YAAH
YAAH
CHECK THIS OUT, GYRO.
PEOPLE HAVE STARTED BETTING ON THE WINNER OF THIS STAGE...
...AND SAND MAN IS THE FAVORITE. WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THAT?
YAAH
HMPH!
YAAH

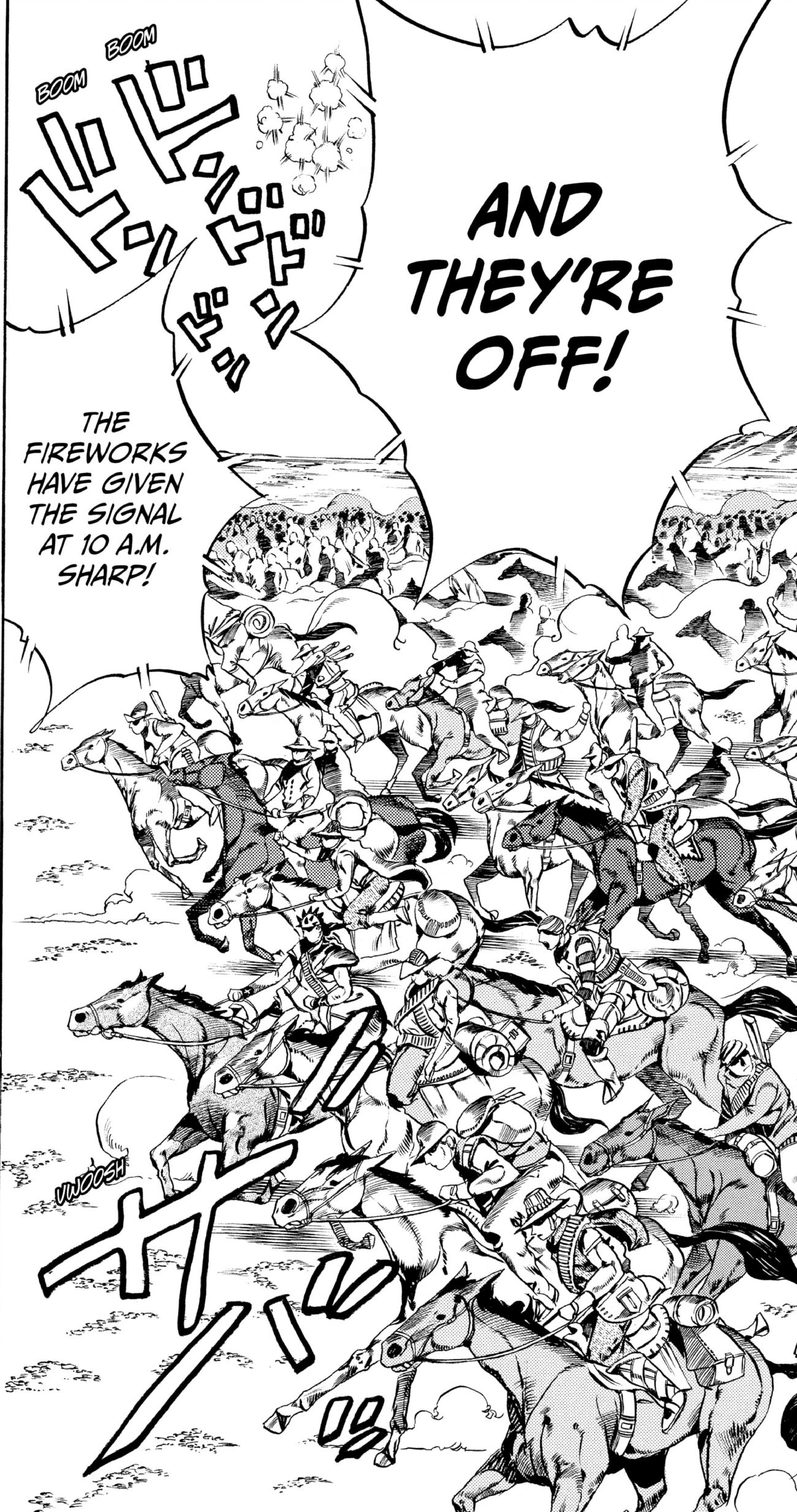

YOU SURE I'M NOT THE FAVORITE?
IN YOUR DREAMS, MAYBE.
BY THE WAY, I'M THE SIXTH FAVORITE.
YOU'RE NINTH. CONSIDERING THAT PENALTY YOU GOT, I'D SAY THAT'S NOT TOO SHABBY.
MORONS.
THOSE SHEEP HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT.
NOT THAT I CARE...
MAYBE, BUT IF SAND MAN WINS AGAIN...
...HE'LL HAVE 200 POINTS AND A TWO-HOUR TIME BONUS.
AND WITH EVERY STAGE, THE GAP WILL KEEP GROWING UNTIL WE CAN'T DO A DAMN THING ABOUT IT.
I'M NOT ABOUT TO LET THAT HAPPEN.
YOU THINK HE CAN RUN 60 MILES IN A DAY?
HE MIGHT.
I HEAR HE'S FROM ARIZONA. HE KNOWS THE TERRAIN. IT'S HIS HOME TURF.

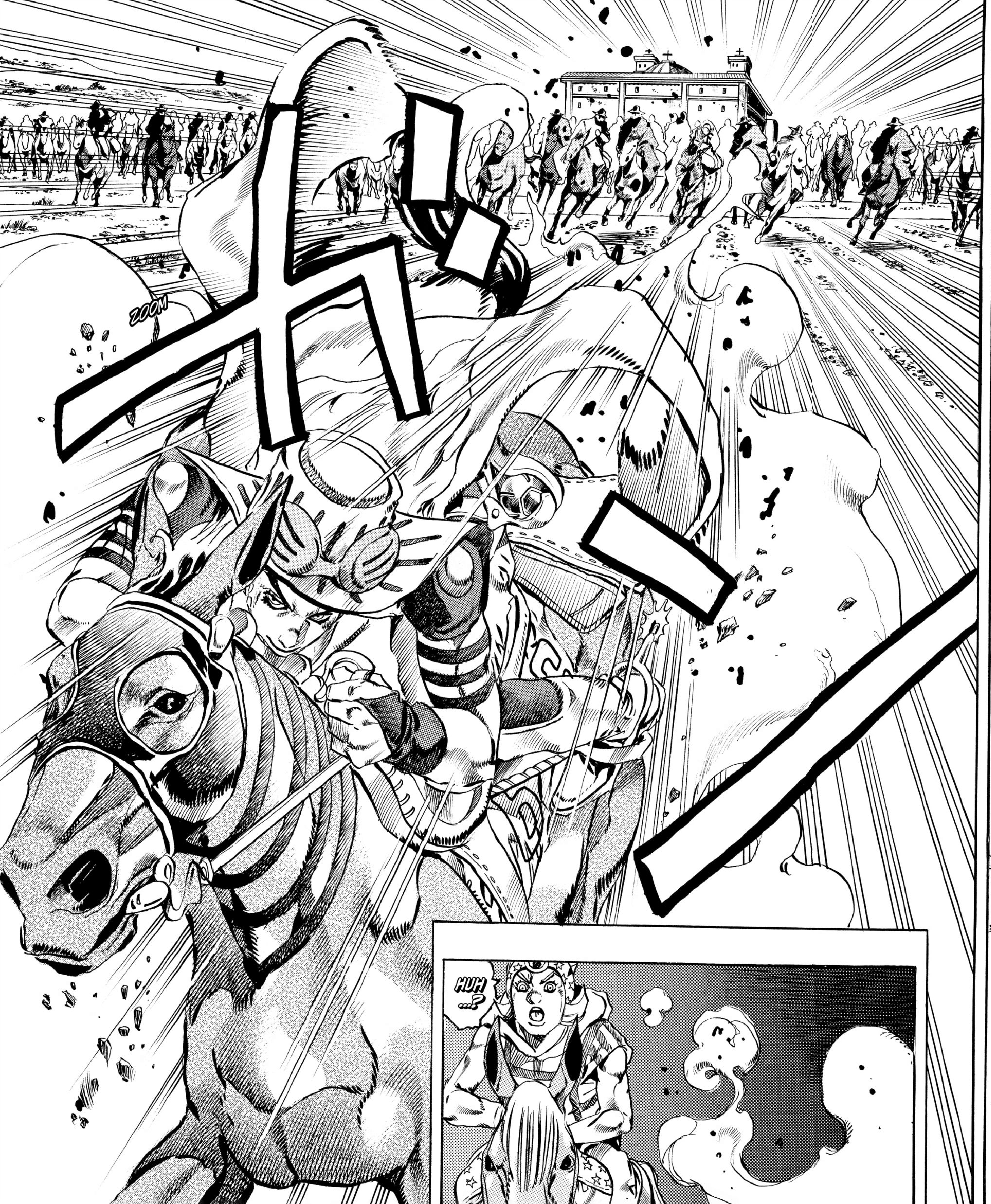

YAAH
YAAH
YAAH
YAAH
YOU SEE THAT GUY OVER THERE? THAT'S ***MOUNTAIN TIM.*** THE ODDS FOR HIM WINNING THIS STAGE ARE ALMOST THE SAME AS FOR SAND MAN.
YAAH
THAT'S A WEIRD FRICKIN' HAT.
YAAH
IT'S GIVING ME THE URGE STOMP ON IT... STOMP ON IT RIGHT THERE WHILE IT'S STILL SITTIN' ON HIS STUPID LITTLE HEAD.
MOST PEOPLE ASSUMED HE'D HAVE TROUBLE IN THE SHORT-DISTANCE SPRINTS ON ACCOUNT OF HIM BEING A COWBOY...BUT HE HAD NO TROUBLE KEEPING UP WITH US YESTERDAY.
I DIDN'T EVEN HEAR HIS HORSE'S HOOFBEATS. HE CAUGHT UP WITHOUT US NOTICING AND SLIPPED AHEAD JUST BEFORE THE FINISH LINE.
GEEZ, HOW COULD WE NOT NOTICE HIM?
ESPECIALLY IN THAT WEIRD FRICKIN' HAT.
AHA HA! NYO HO!
YAAH
YAAH
GYRO, THAT'S IT...
YAAH
YAAH
YAAH
I THINK THIS STAGE IS GOING TO COME DOWN TO WHO CAN FIND THE ***WATERING HOLES.***


THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE WILL BE FIGURING OUT...
...HOW TO CROSS THE DESERT WITHOUT RUNNING OUT OF WATER.
BACK IN 1875, NOT LONG AFTER THIS TERRITORY FINALLY BECAME PART OF THE UNITED STATES...
...A 26-MAN CAVALRY UNIT WAS COMPLETELY WIPED OUT HERE.
NOT BECAUSE OF A BATTLE OR ACCIDENT, BUT BECAUSE THEIR USUAL WATERING HOLE HAD UNEXPECTEDLY DRIED UP THAT YEAR.
THE 26 MEN SET OFF IN SEARCH OF ANOTHER SOURCE OF WATER, BUT AS THEY ROAMED THE DESERT, THE MIDDAY TEMPERATURE ROSE ABOVE 120 DEGREES. NEARLY 140 IN SOME PLACES.
THEY EVENTUALLY DIED OF DEHYDRATION, BUT BEFORE THAT...
...THEIR EYEBALLS DRIED OUT AND SHATTERED LIKE CLAY POTS.

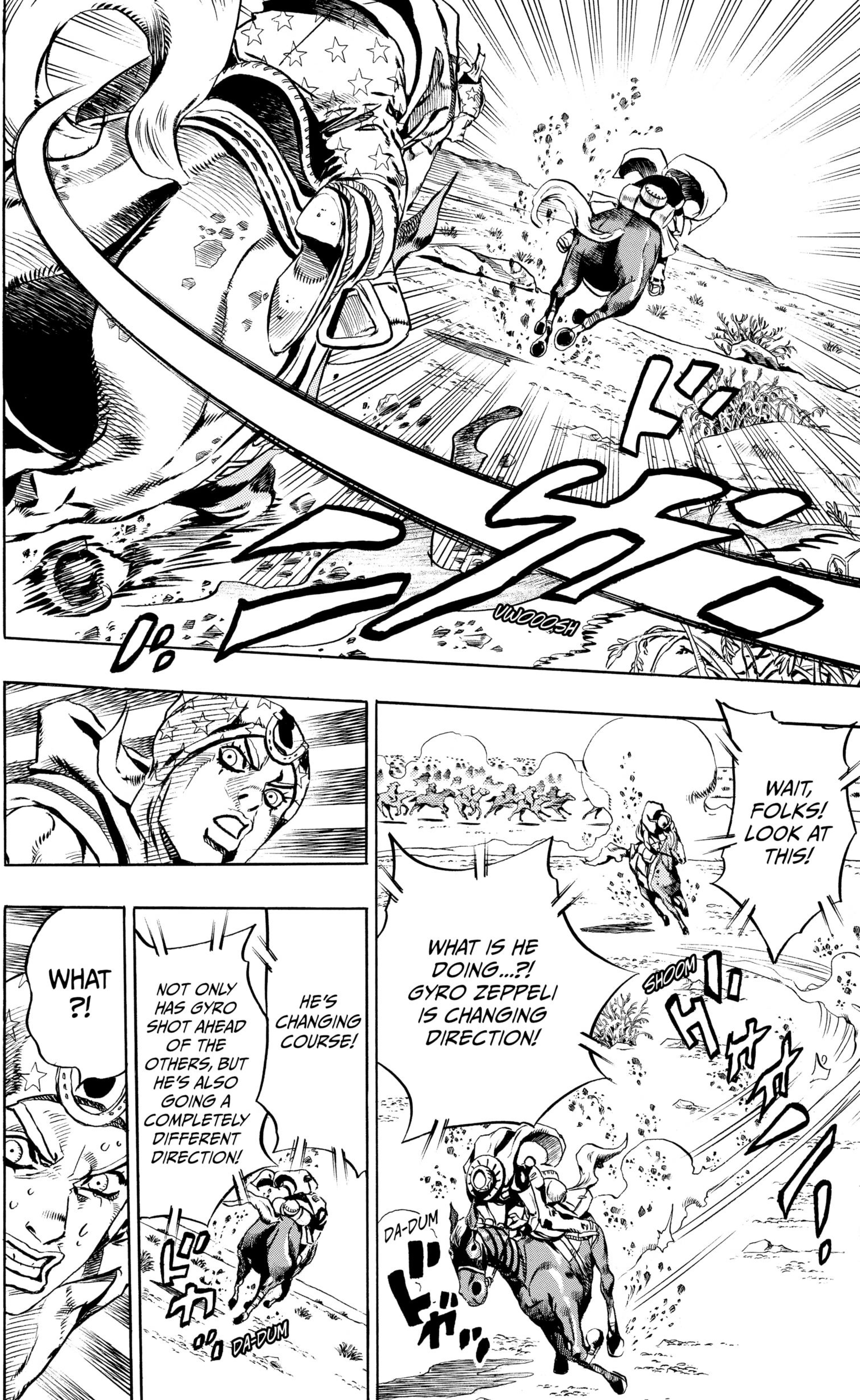

THEY WANDERED THE DESERT IN COMPLETE BLINDNESS UNTIL THEY EVENTUALLY BAKED TO DEATH.
THIS MAP MARKS THE LOCATIONS OF WATERING HOLES.
AFTER THE RACE STARTS, WE'LL GO NORTH. ON THE FIRST DAY, WE'LL HAVE TO RIDE 30 MILES TO REACH THE FIRST WATERING HOLE.
BUT IF WE GET LOST, WE'LL BE LUCKY TO LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO RETIRE FROM THE RACE.
Watering Hole
Watering Holes
Start
AND THERE'S STILL THE MATTER OF THIS...
FLIK
FLIK
THE CORK.
HOW CAN I MAKE IT SPIN?

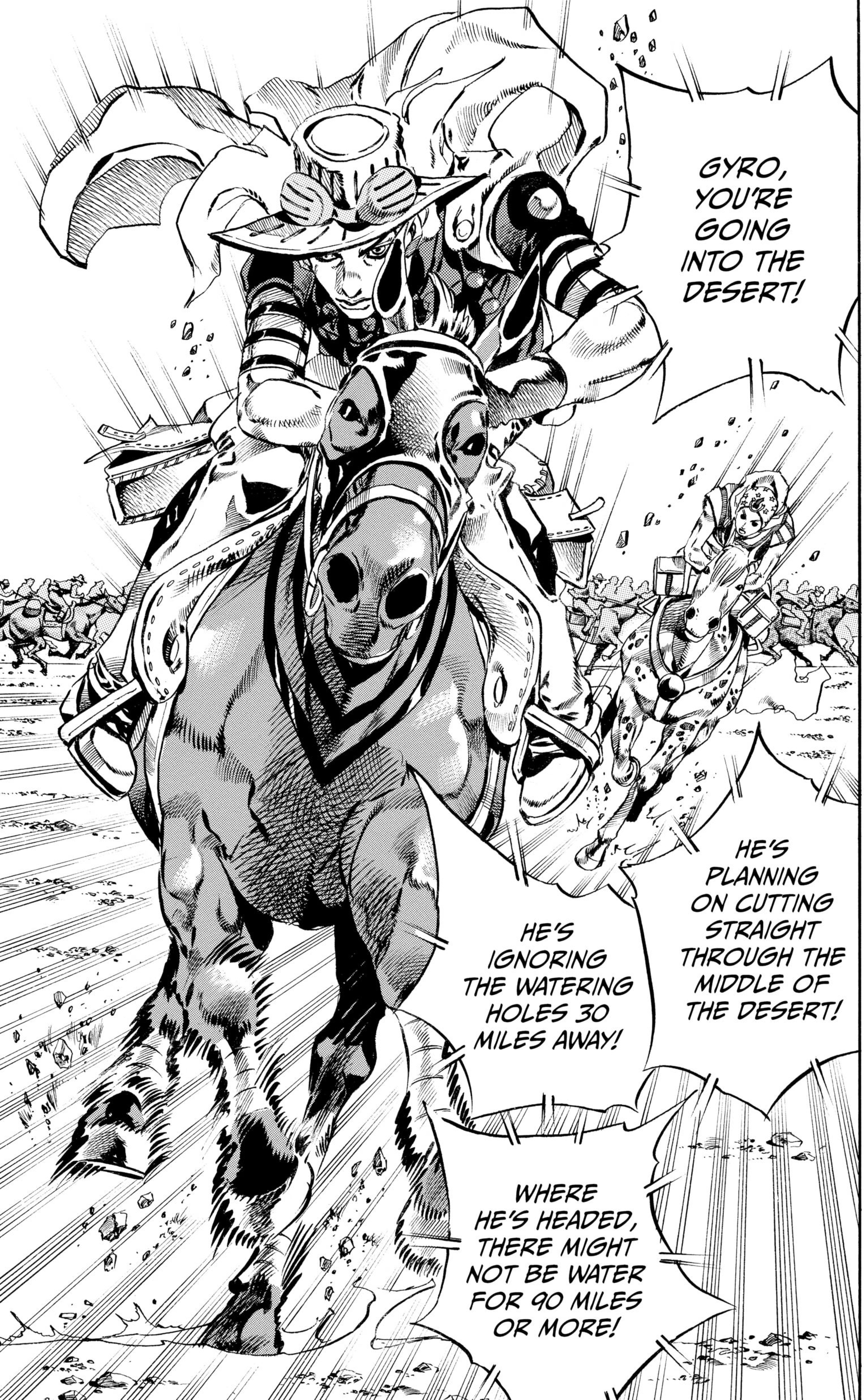

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IT'S THE MOMENT YOU'VE ALL BEEN WAITING FOR! THE SECOND STAGE IS ABOUT TO BEGIN!
OUR POST TIME IS JUST 30 SECONDS AWAY!
YAAH
YAAH
YAAH
YAAH
BECAUSE THE RAILROAD LINE DOES NOT FOLLOW ALONG THIS STAGE'S ROUTE, THE TRAIN WILL GO AHEAD TO THE CHECKPOINT.
AND THE HOT-AIR BALLOONS WILL ONLY BE ABLE TO FOLLOW AS FAR AS THE COLORADO RIVER.
DIEGO BRANDO HAS DONNED HIS RACING GOGGLES!
MEANWHILE, POCOLOCO HAS LOADED UP WITH PLENTY OF SUPPLIES!

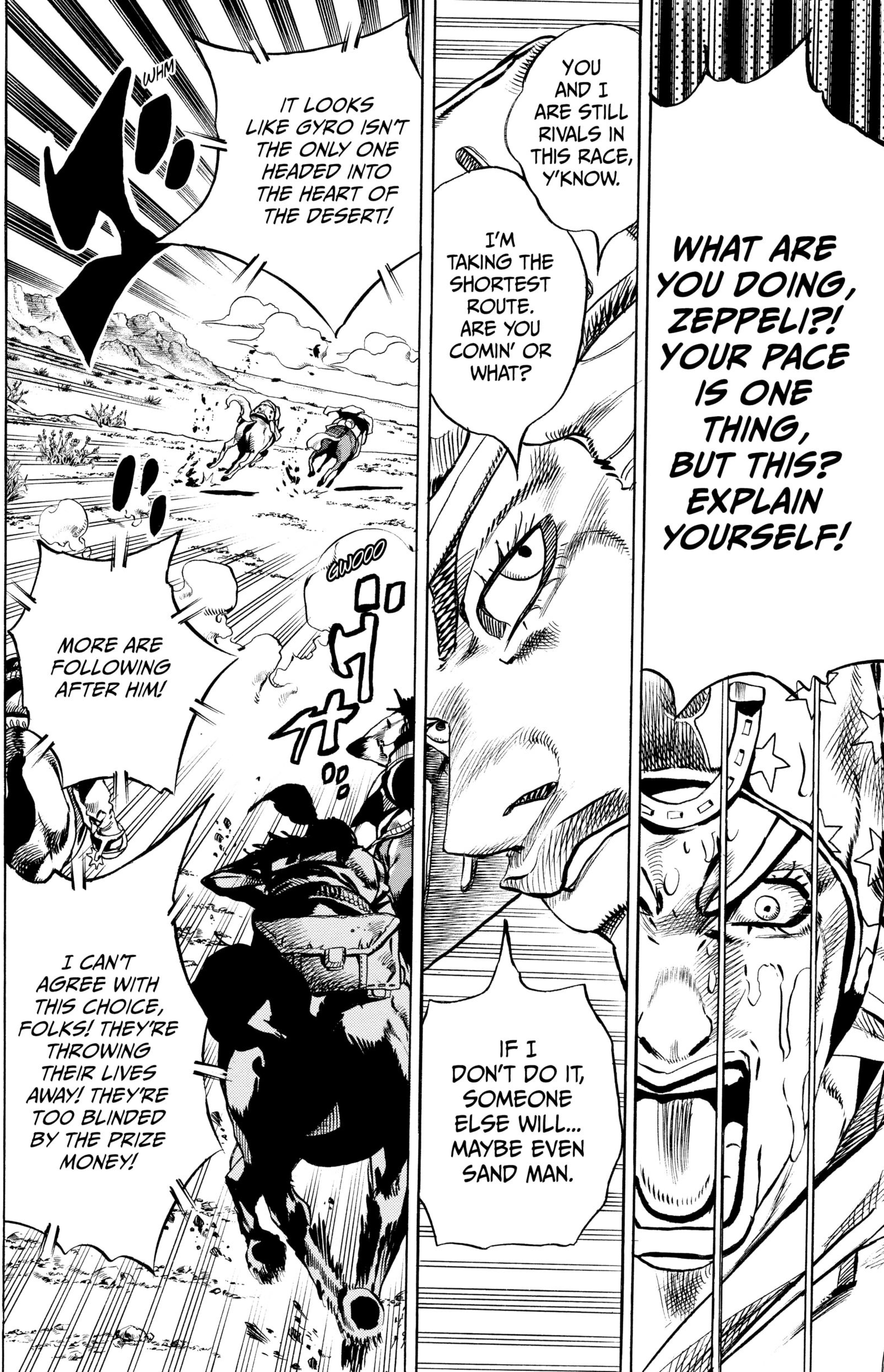

BOOM BOOM
AND THEY'RE OFF!
THE FIREWORKS HAVE GIVEN THE SIGNAL AT 10 A.M. SHARP!
WOOSH

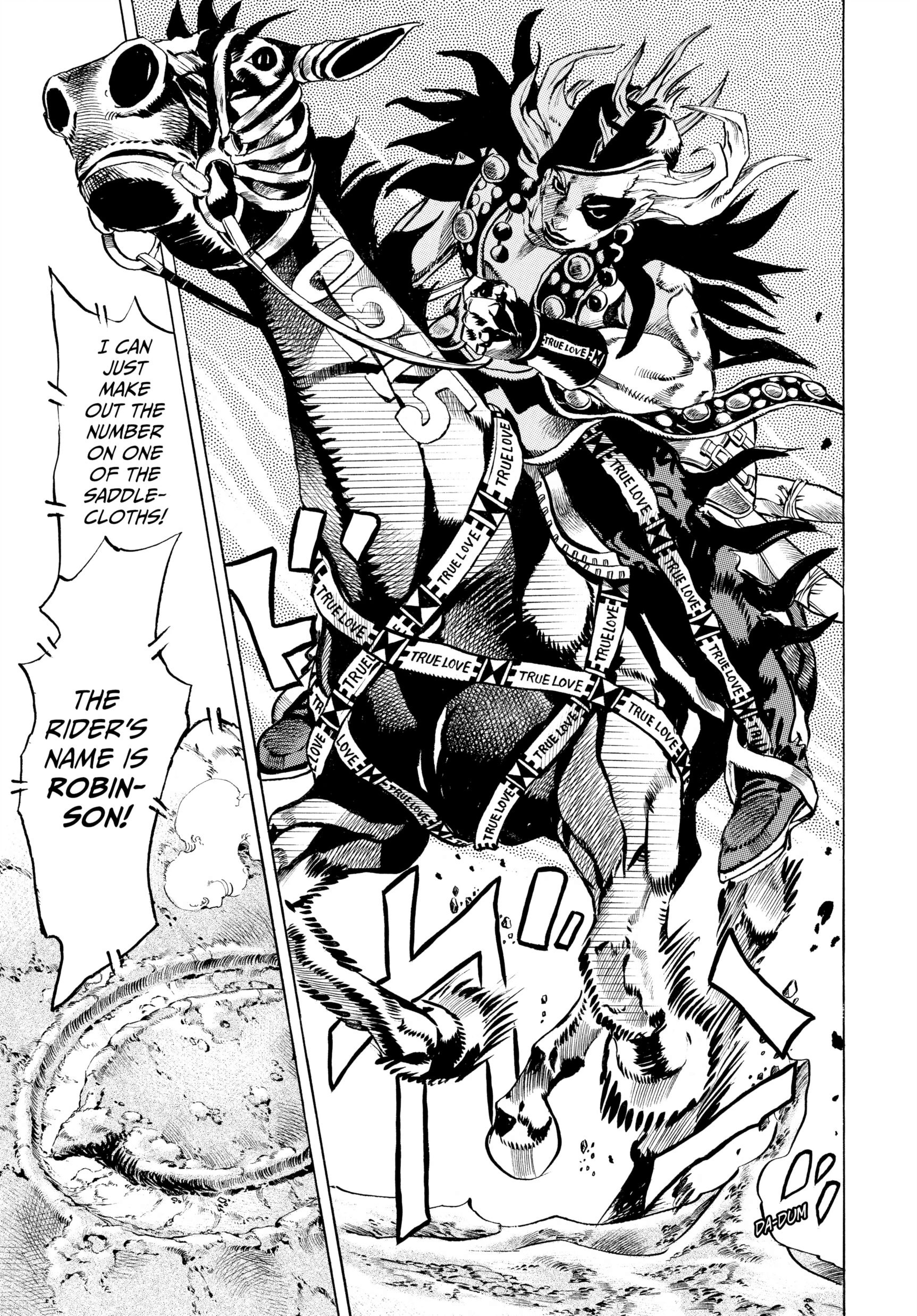

ZOOM
HUH ...?

GYRO ZEPPELI IS OFF LIKE A BULLET!
GYRO'S IN THE LEAD!
THAT'S RIGHT, GYRO ZEPPELI!
IT'S GYRO! GYRO!
IT'S GYRO!
DOES HE SIMPLY REFUSE TO LOOK AT ANY OTHER RACER'S BACK?
OR IS THIS JUST HIS WAY OF AVOIDING THE DUST CLOUD BEING KICKED UP BY HIS COMPETITORS?!
IT'S THE SPITTING IMAGE OF THE FIRST STAGE! GYRO HAS SPRINTED INTO THE LEAD ALONE AGAIN!
ドゥオ
ZWOOOM
WHATEVER HIS REASON, GYRO ZEPPELI IS ONCE AGAIN PLAYING THE ROLE OF THE LONE FUGITIVE FOR THIS SECOND STAGE!
UGH!
NGH...
NRGH...
IS HE OUT OF HIS MIND? THERE'S 750 MILES TO CROSS!
DAMMIT!
WHAT THE HELL IS WRONG WITH THIS GUY?!
AAAGH! YOU WANT ME TO FOLLOW YOU? FINE!
HERE I COME!

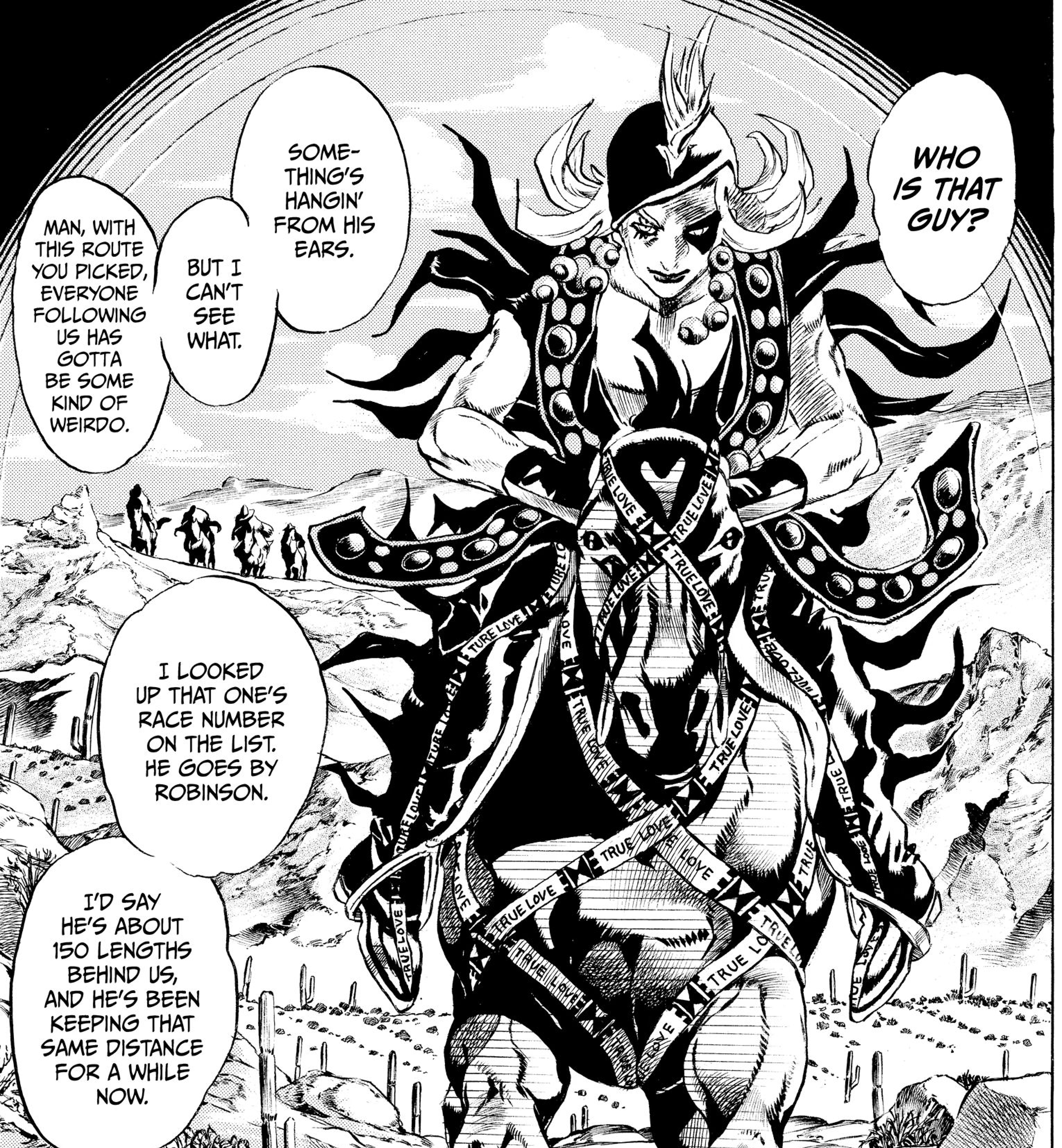

VWOOOSH
WAIT, FOLKS! LOOK AT THIS!
WHAT IS HE DOING...?! GYRO ZEPPELI IS CHANGING DIRECTION!
SHOOM
DA-DUM
HE'S CHANGING COURSE!
NOT ONLY HAS GYRO SHOT AHEAD OF THE OTHERS, BUT HE'S ALSO GOING A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT DIRECTION!
DA-DUM
WHAT ?!


GYRO, YOU'RE GOING INTO THE DESERT!
HE'S PLANNING ON CUTTING STRAIGHT THROUGH THE MIDDLE OF THE DESERT!
HE'S IGNORING THE WATERING HOLES 30 MILES AWAY!
WHERE HE'S HEADED, THERE MIGHT NOT BE WATER FOR 90 MILES OR MORE!


WHAT ARE YOU DOING, ZEPPELI?! YOUR PACE IS ONE THING, BUT THIS? EXPLAIN YOURSELF!
YOU AND I ARE STILL RIVALS IN THIS RACE, Y'KNOW.
I'M TAKING THE SHORTEST ROUTE. ARE YOU COMIN' OR WHAT?
IF I DON'T DO IT, SOMEONE ELSE WILL... MAYBE EVEN SAND MAN.
WHM
IT LOOKS LIKE GYRO ISN'T THE ONLY ONE HEADED INTO THE HEART OF THE DESERT!
GWOOO
MORE ARE FOLLOWING AFTER HIM!
I CAN'T AGREE WITH THIS CHOICE, FOLKS! THEY'RE THROWING THEIR LIVES AWAY! THEY'RE TOO BLINDED BY THE PRIZE MONEY!

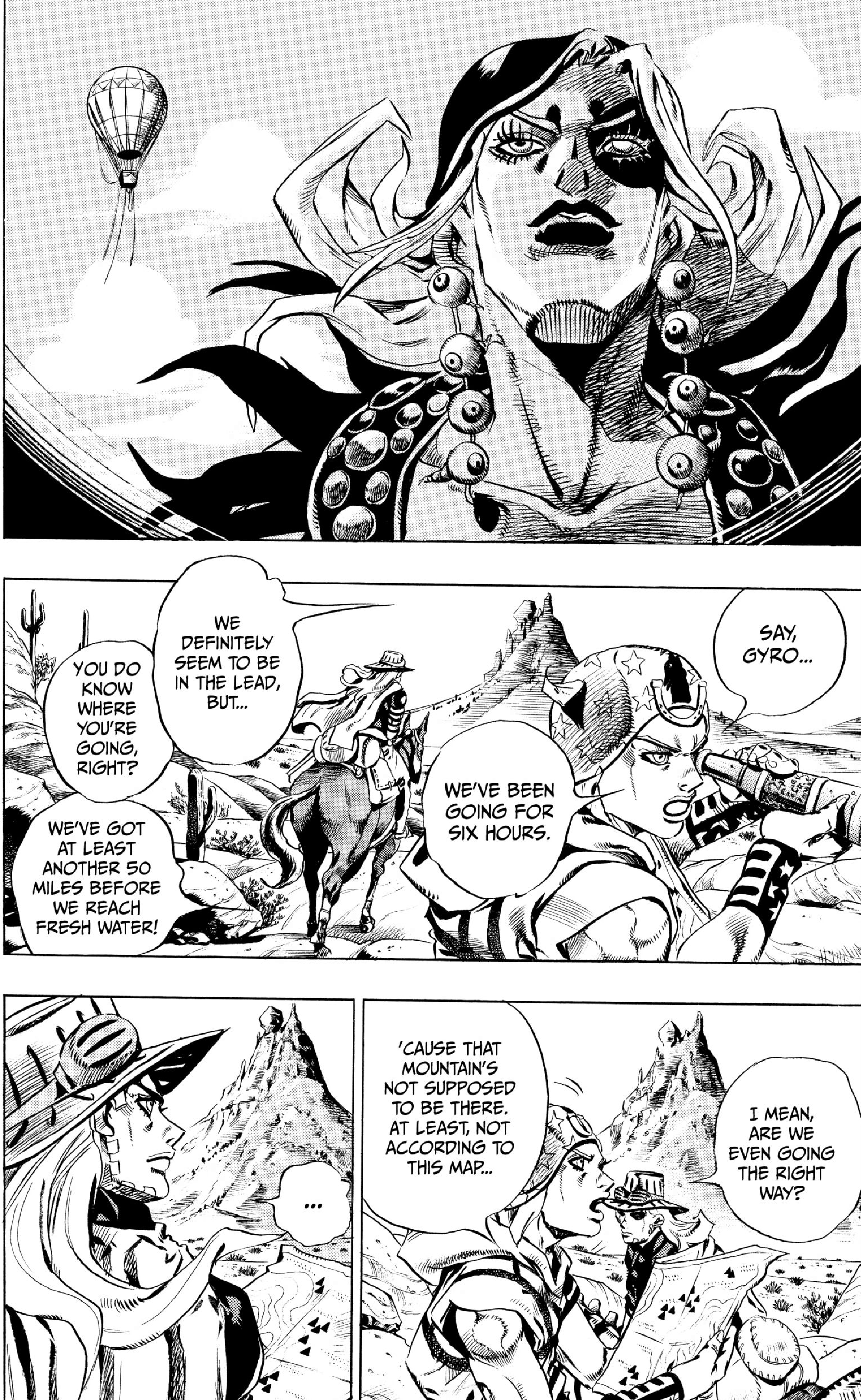

I CAN JUST MAKE OUT THE NUMBER ON ONE OF THE SADDLE-CLOTHS!
THE RIDER'S NAME IS ROBINSON!
TRUE LOVE
DA-DUM

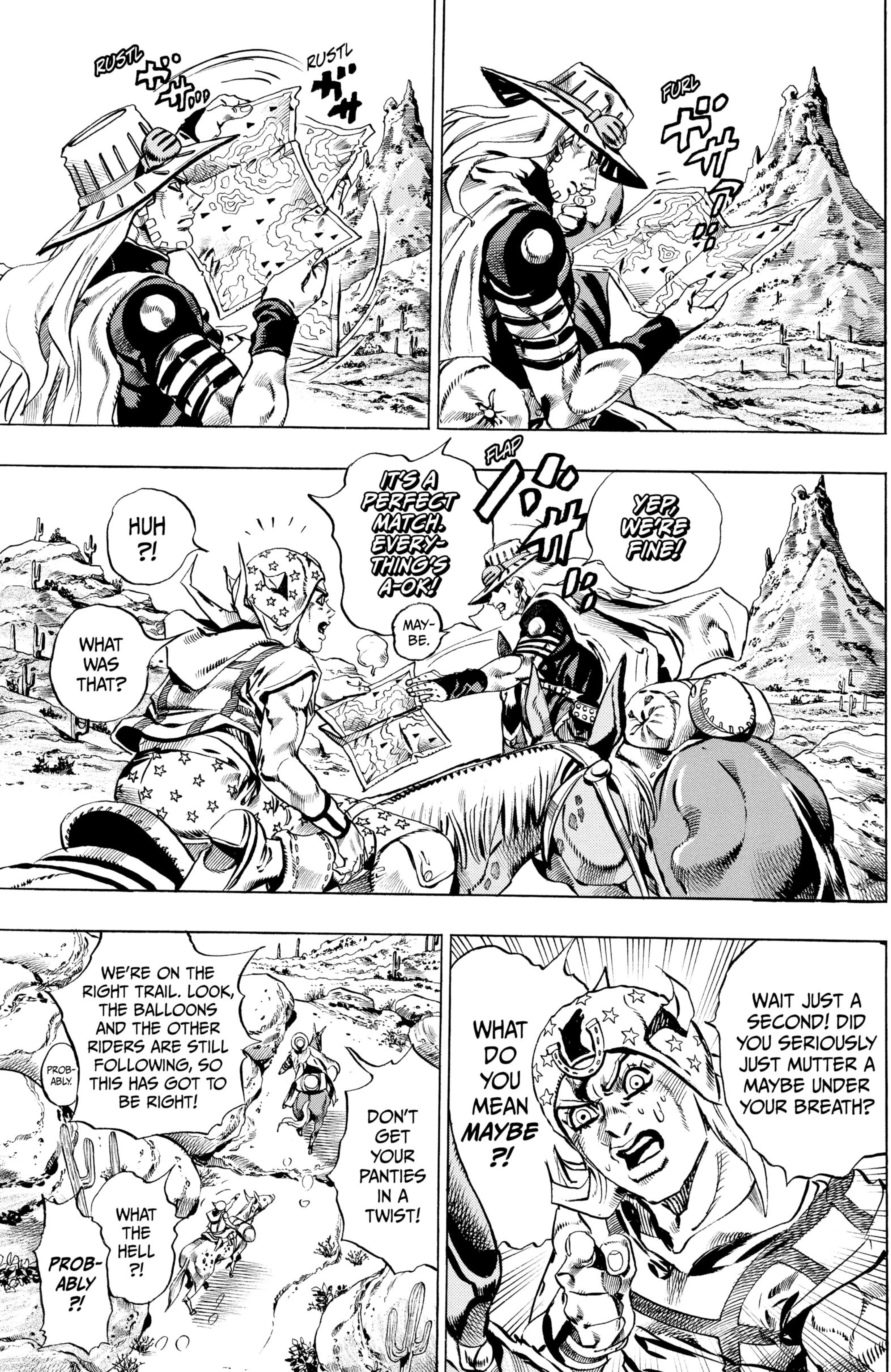
M
T

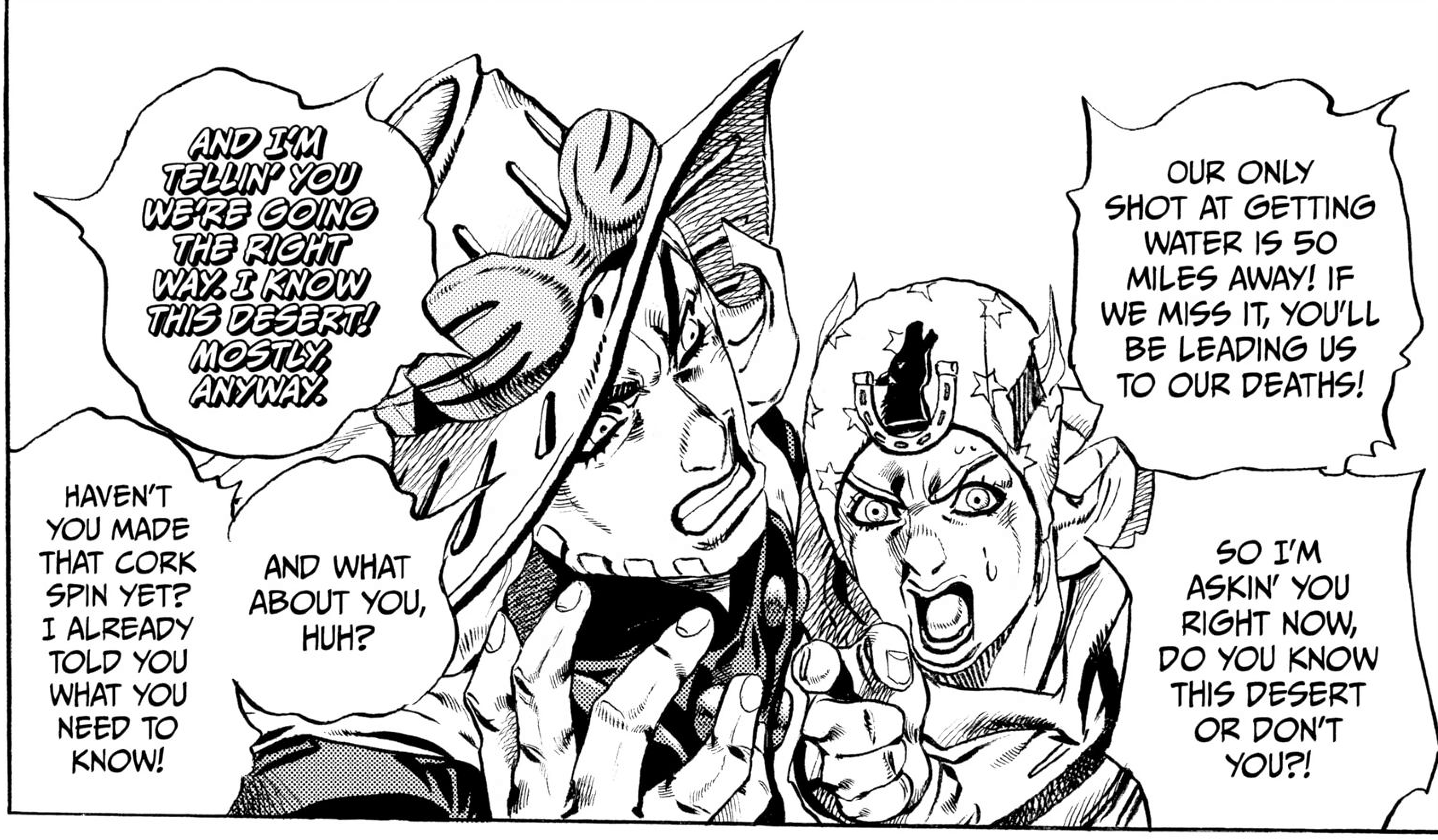

WHO IS THAT GUY?
SOMETHING'S HANGIN' FROM HIS EARS.
BUT I CAN'T SEE WHAT.
MAN, WITH THIS ROUTE YOU PICKED, EVERYONE FOLLOWING US HAS GOTTA BE SOME KIND OF WEIRDO.
I LOOKED UP THAT ONE'S RACE NUMBER ON THE LIST. HE GOES BY ROBINSON.
I'D SAY HE'S ABOUT 150 LENGTHS BEHIND US, AND HE'S BEEN KEEPING THAT SAME DISTANCE FOR A WHILE NOW.
TRUE LOVE

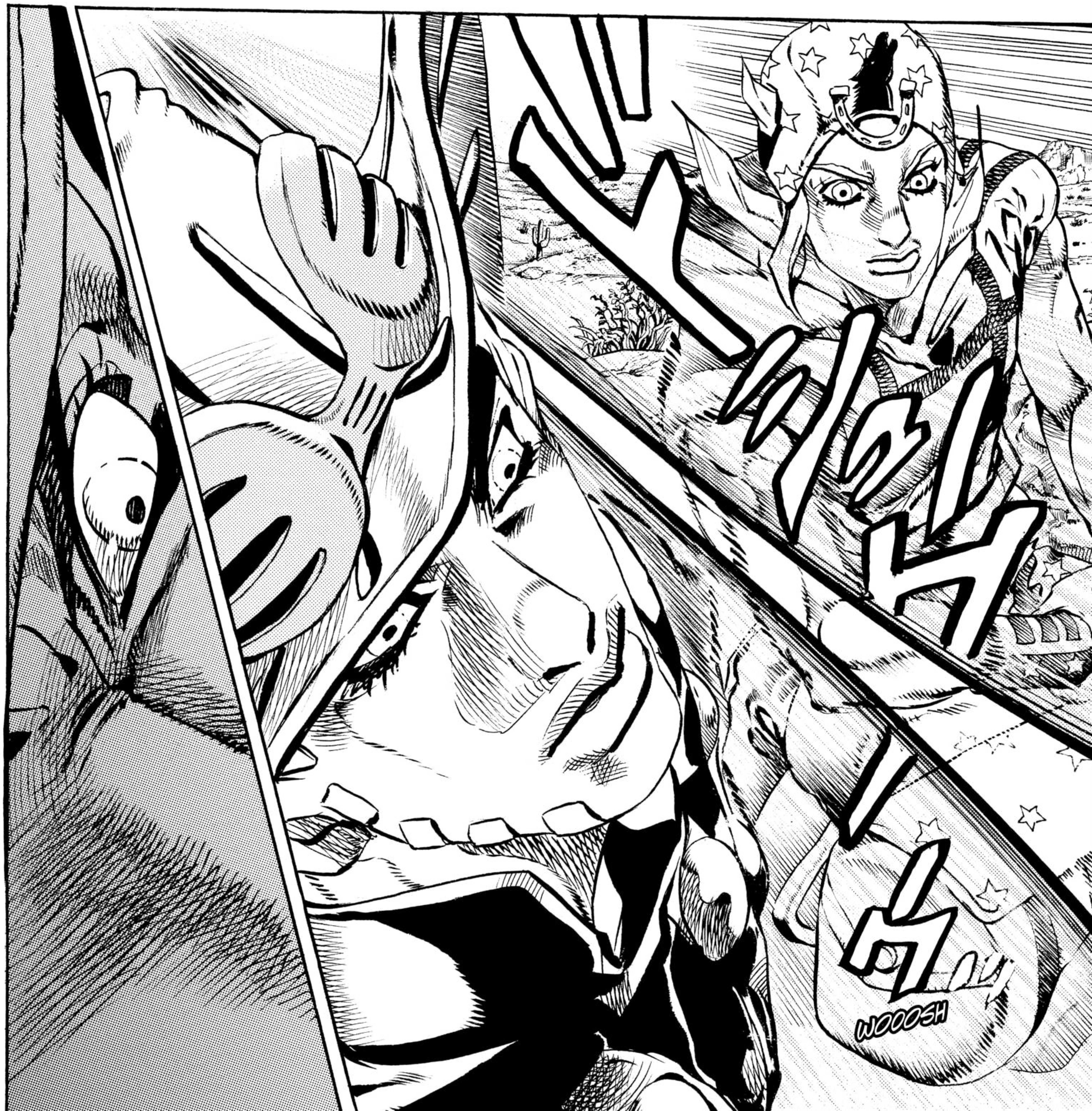
CHAPTER 14:

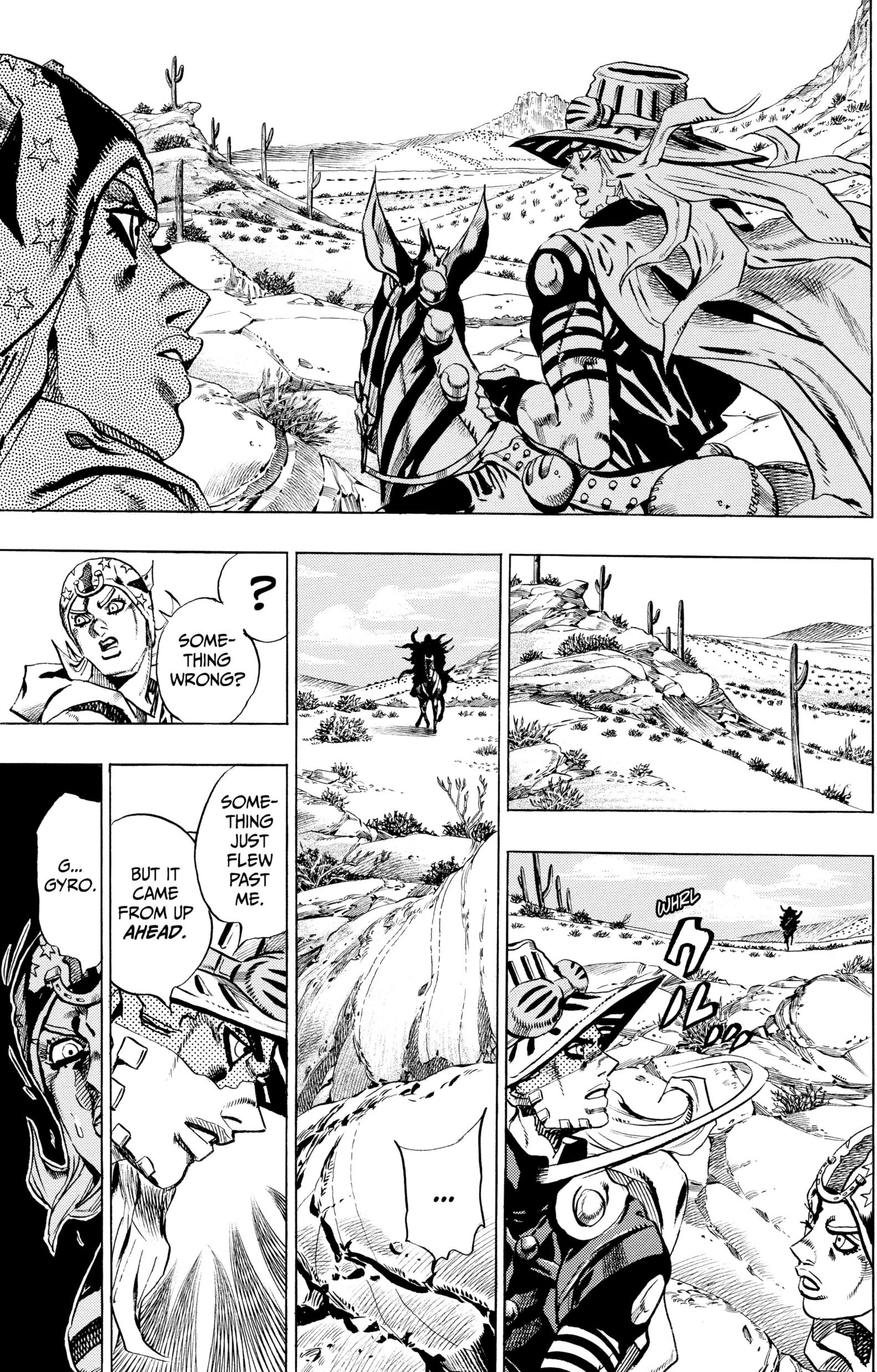
Arizona Desert Crossing: The Shortest Route

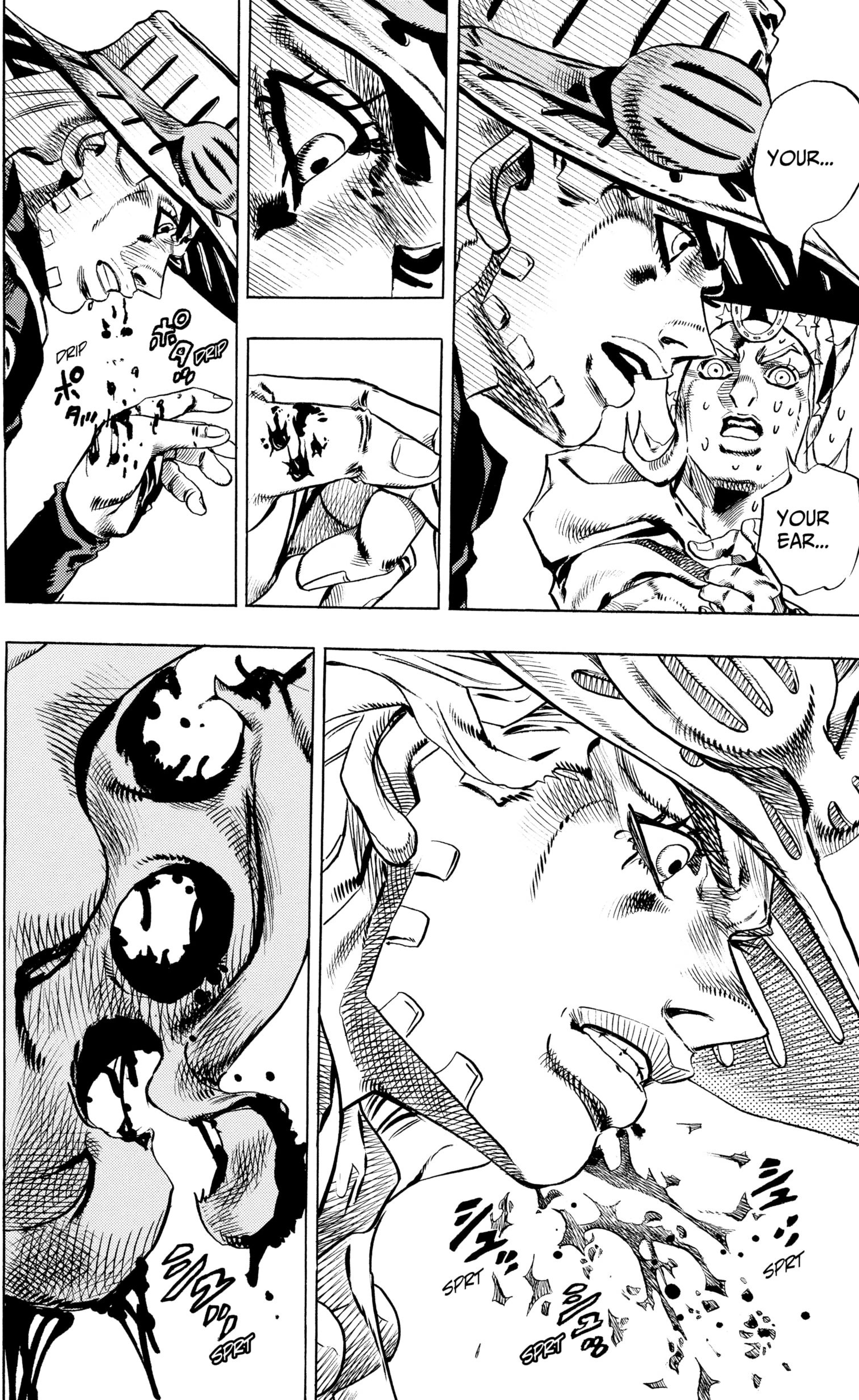

SAY, GYRO...
WE'VE BEEN GOING FOR SIX HOURS.
WE DEFINITELY SEEM TO BE IN THE LEAD, BUT...
YOU DO KNOW WHERE YOU'RE GOING, RIGHT?
WE'VE GOT AT LEAST ANOTHER 50 MILES BEFORE WE REACH FRESH WATER!
I MEAN, ARE WE EVEN GOING THE RIGHT WAY?
'CAUSE THAT MOUNTAIN'S NOT SUPPOSED TO BE THERE. AT LEAST, NOT ACCORDING TO THIS MAP...
...

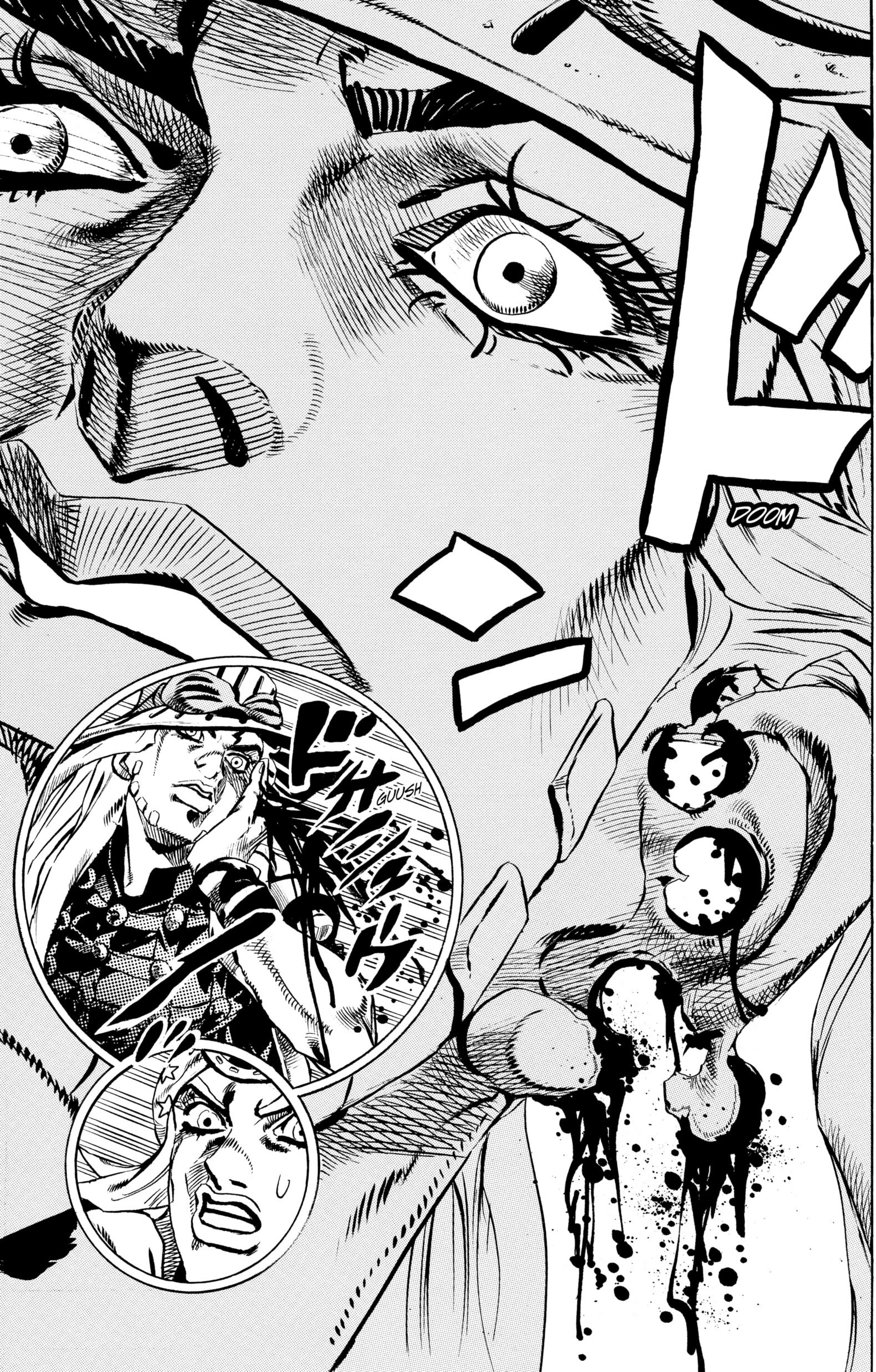

FURL
RUSTL
RUSTL
FLAP
IT'S A PERFECT MATCH. EVERYTHING'S A-OK!
MAY-BE.
HUH ?!
WHAT WAS THAT?
YEP, WE'RE FINE!
WAIT JUST A SECOND! DID YOU SERIOUSLY JUST MUTTER A MAYBE UNDER YOUR BREATH?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN *MAYBE* ?!
DON'T GET YOUR PANTIES IN A TWIST!
WE'RE ON THE RIGHT TRAIL. LOOK, THE BALLOONS AND THE OTHER RIDERS ARE STILL FOLLOWING, SO THIS HAS GOT TO BE RIGHT!
PROBABLY.
WHAT THE HELL ?!
PROBABLY ?!

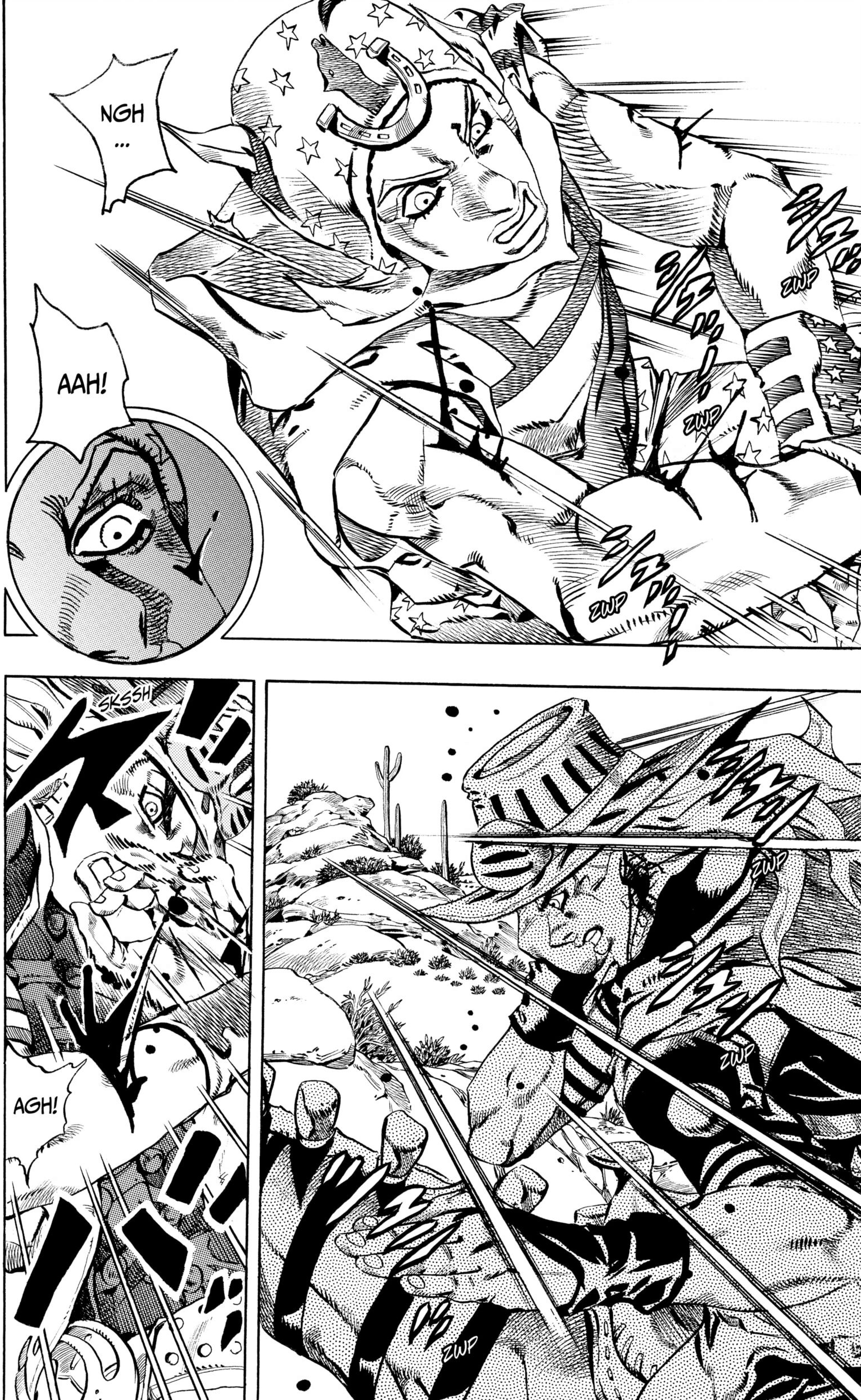

OUR ONLY SHOT AT GETTING WATER IS 50 MILES AWAY! IF WE MISS IT, YOU'LL BE LEADING US TO OUR DEATHS!
AND I'M TELLIN' YOU WE'RE GOING THE RIGHT WAY. I KNOW THIS DESERT! MOSTLY, ANYWAY.
SO I'M ASKIN' YOU RIGHT NOW, DO YOU KNOW THIS DESERT OR DON'T YOU?!
AND WHAT ABOUT YOU, HUH?
HAVEN'T YOU MADE THAT CORK SPIN YET? I ALREADY TOLD YOU WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW!

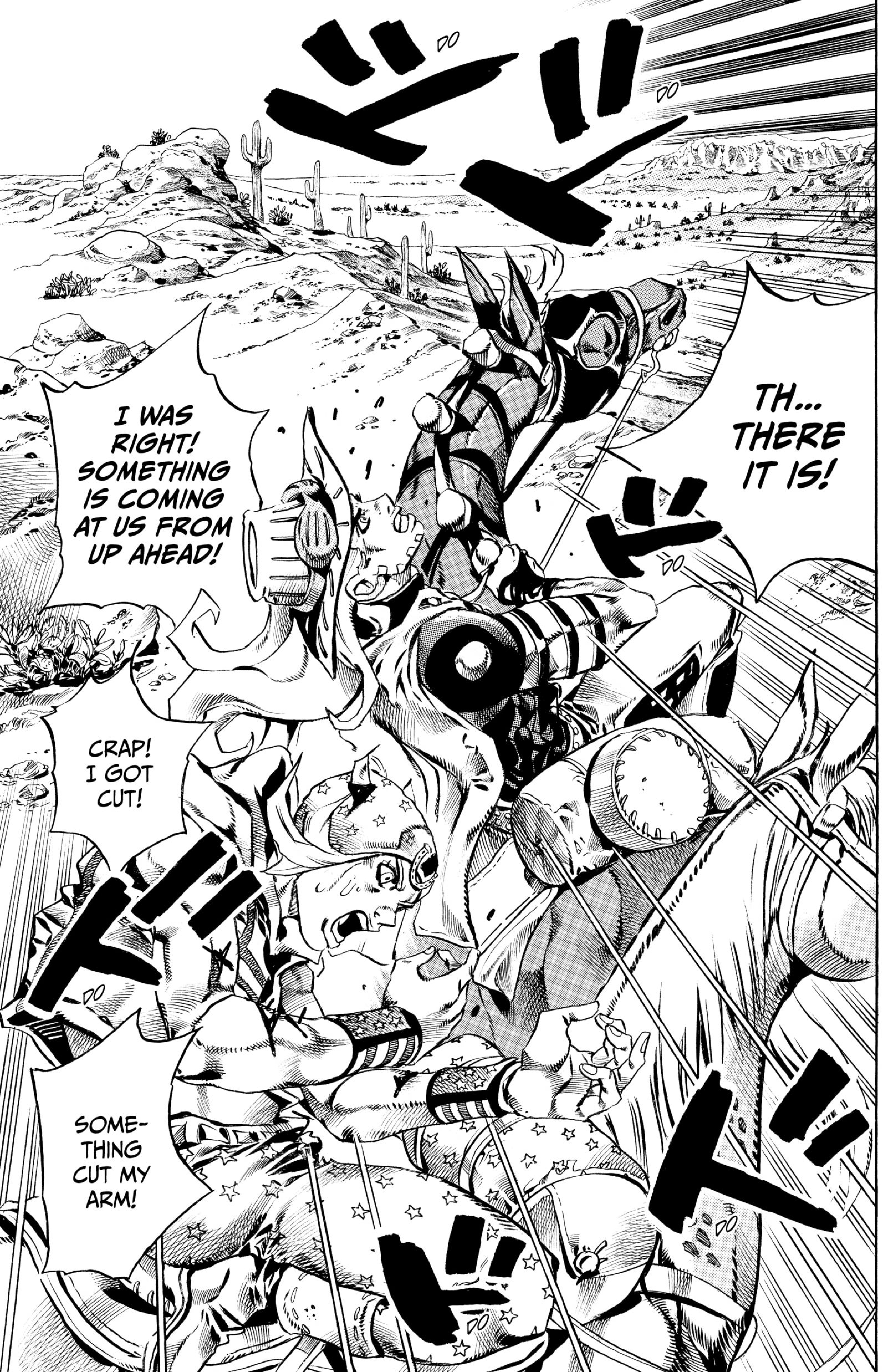

WOOOSH

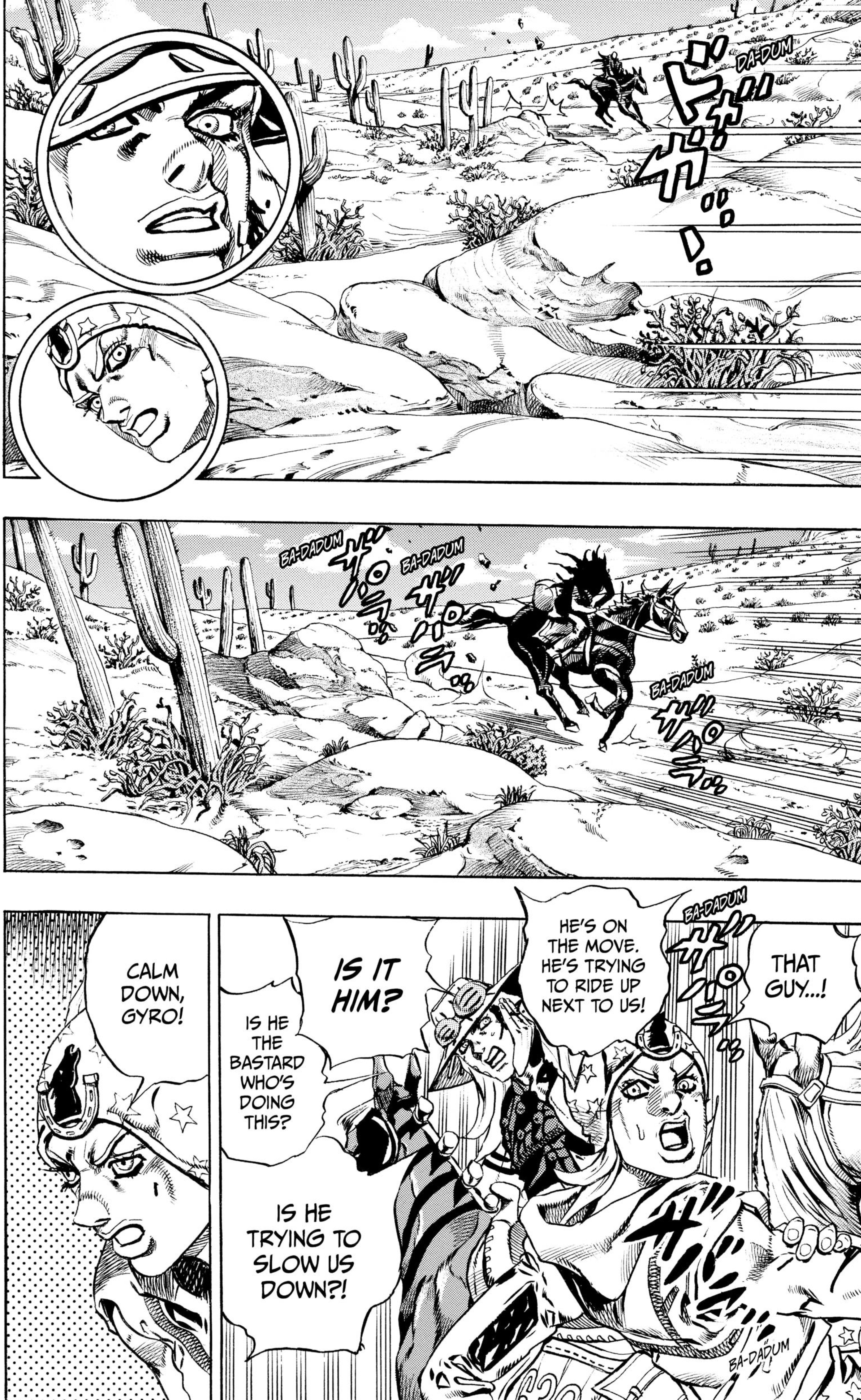

?
SOMETHING WRONG?
WHRL
...
SOMETHING JUST FLEW PAST ME.
BUT IT CAME FROM UP *AHEAD*.
G... GYRO.

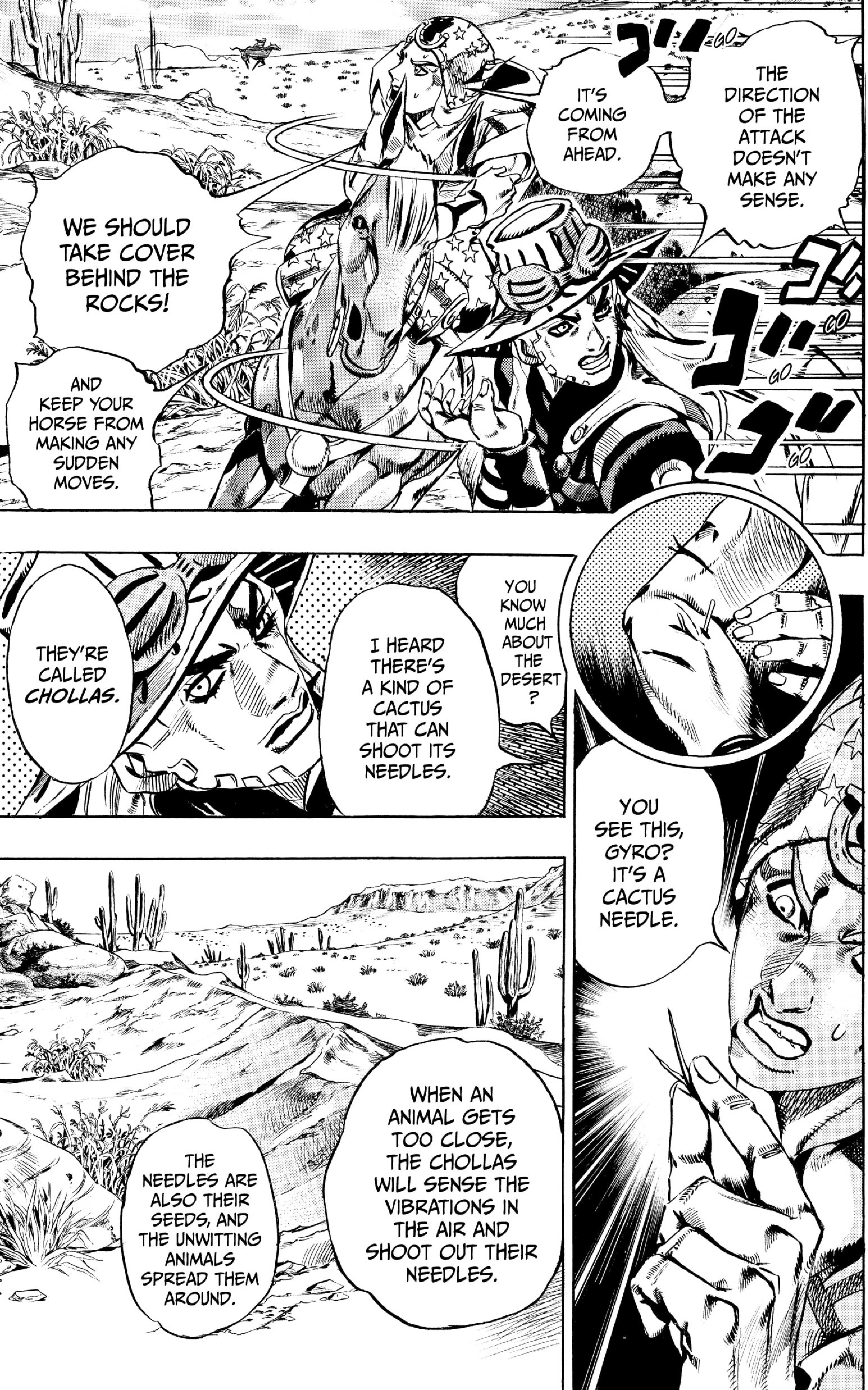

YOUR...
YOUR EAR...
ポタ
DRIP
ポタッ
DRIP
シュ
SPRT
シュッ
SPRT
SPRT
SPRT

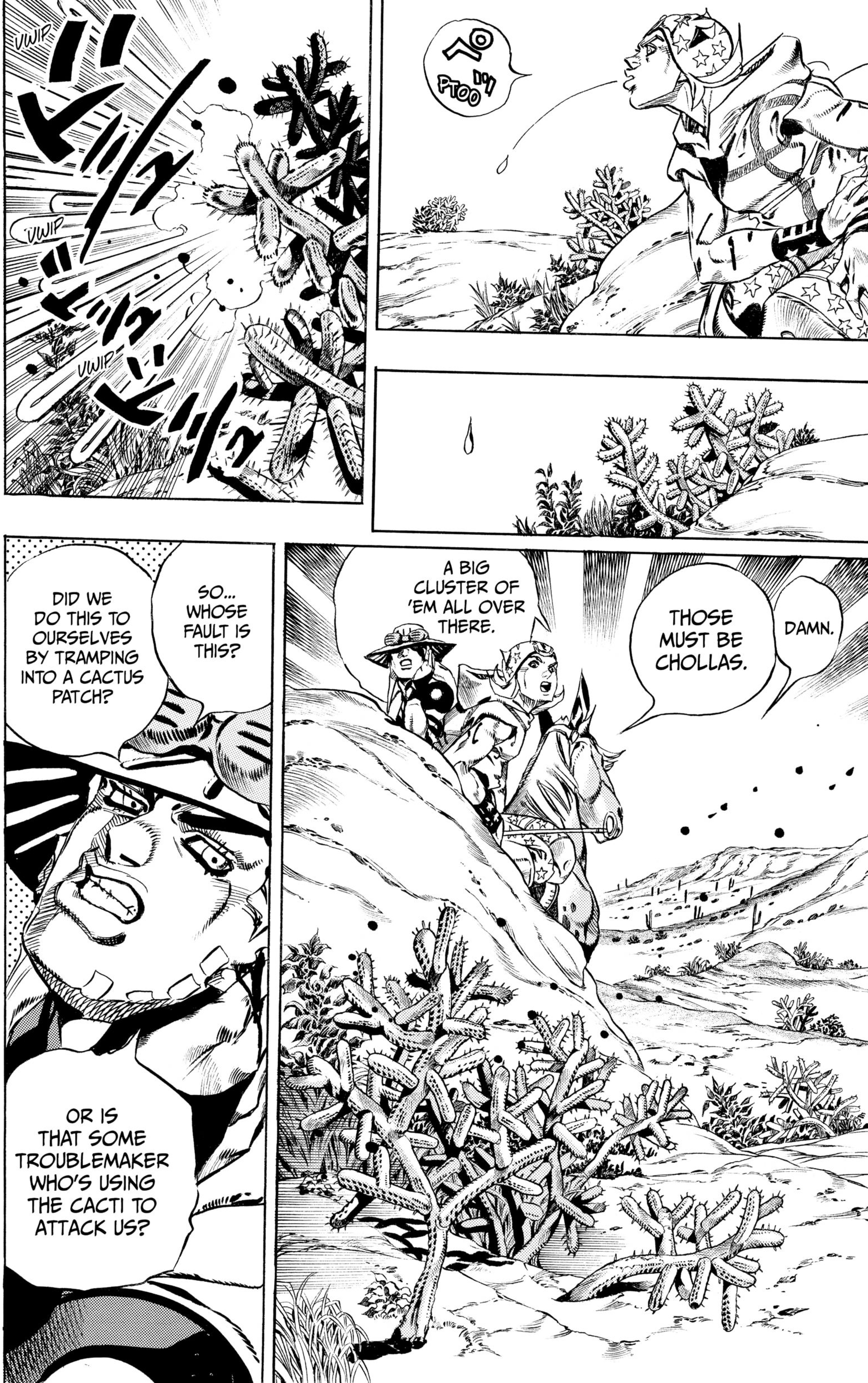

ドン
DOOM
GUUSH

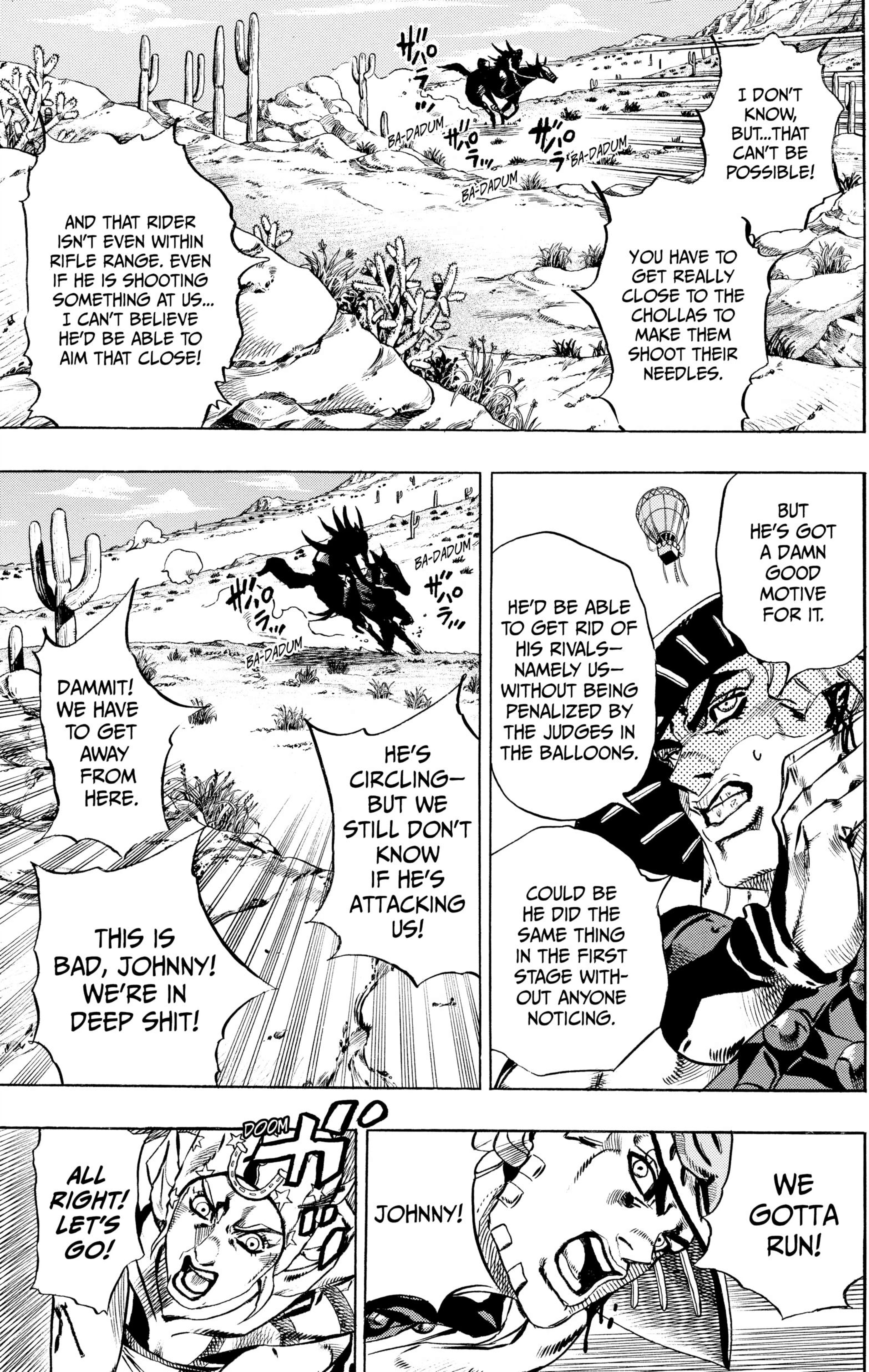

ZWP
ZWP
ZWP
NGH
...
AAH!
ZWP
ZWP
ZWP
SKSSH
AGH!


ドドド
DO
DO
TH... THERE IT IS!
I WAS RIGHT! SOMETHING IS COMING AT US FROM UP AHEAD!
ド
DO
CRAP! I GOT CUT!
ドド
DO
SOMETHING CUT MY ARM!
ドド
DO
DO

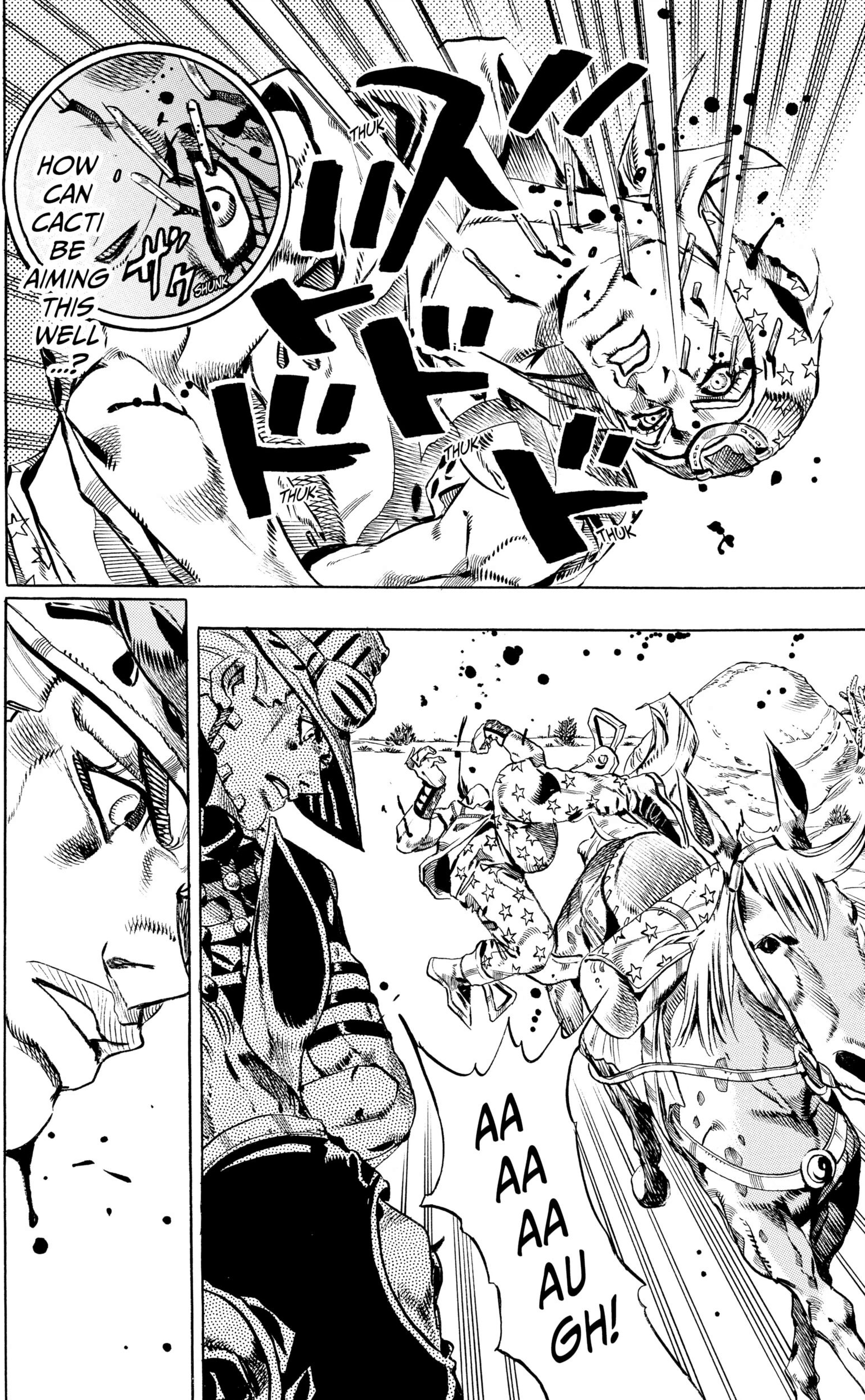

DA-DUM
BA-DADUM
BA-DADUM
BA-DADUM
THAT GUY...!
BA-DADUM
HE'S ON THE MOVE. HE'S TRYING TO RIDE UP NEXT TO US!
IS IT HIM?
IS HE THE BASTARD WHO'S DOING THIS?
IS HE TRYING TO SLOW US DOWN?!
BA-DADUM
CALM DOWN, GYRO!

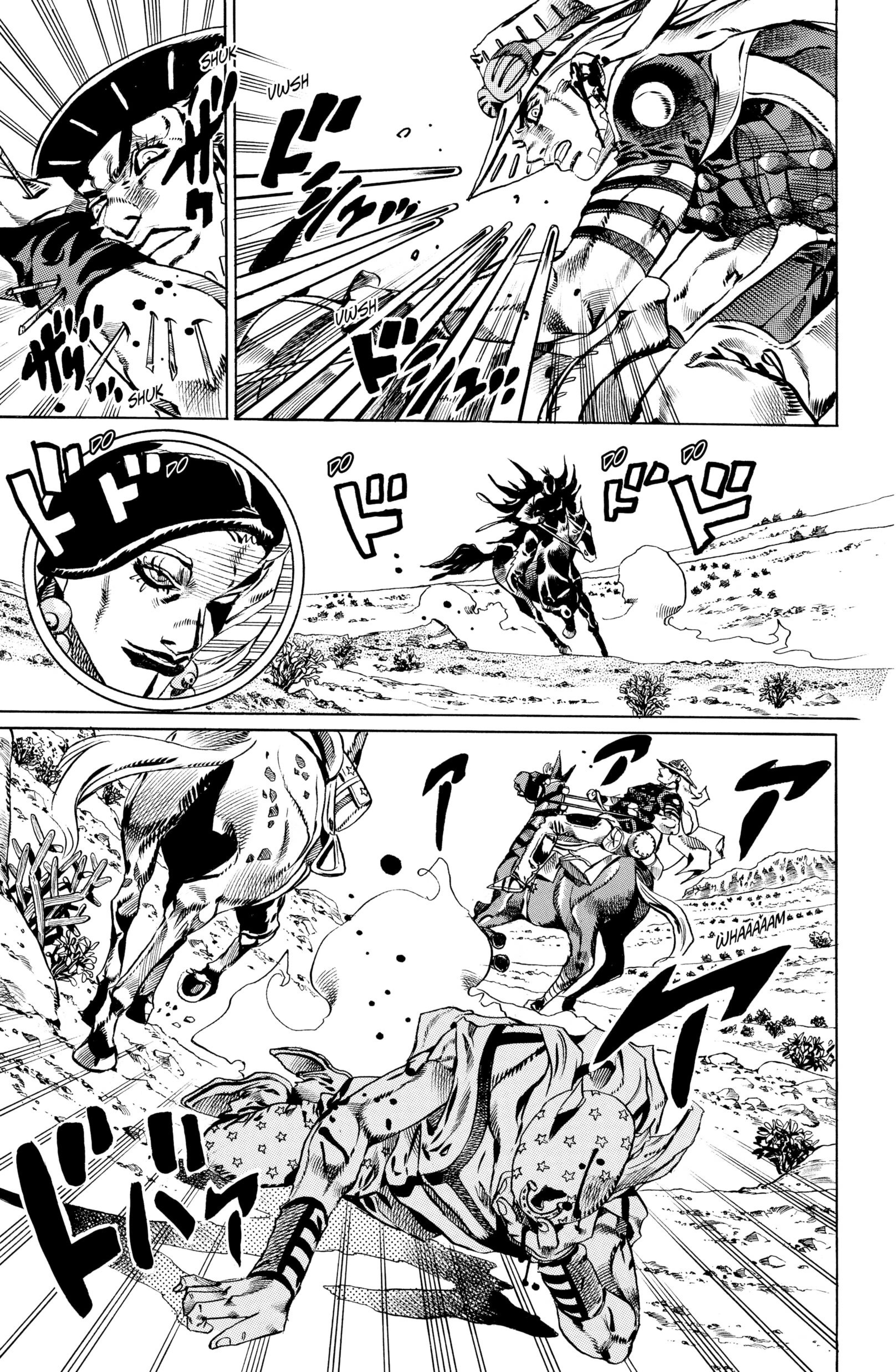

ゴゴ GO
THE DIRECTION OF THE ATTACK DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE.
IT'S COMING FROM AHEAD.
ゴゴ GO
ゴゴ GO
ゴゴ GO
WE SHOULD TAKE COVER BEHIND THE ROCKS!
AND KEEP YOUR HORSE FROM MAKING ANY SUDDEN MOVES.
YOU SEE THIS, GYRO? IT'S A CACTUS NEEDLE.
YOU KNOW MUCH ABOUT THE DESERT?
I HEARD THERE'S A KIND OF CACTUS THAT CAN SHOOT ITS NEEDLES.
THEY'RE CALLED *CHOLLAS*.
WHEN AN ANIMAL GETS TOO CLOSE, THE CHOLLAS WILL SENSE THE VIBRATIONS IN THE AIR AND SHOOT OUT THEIR NEEDLES.
THE NEEDLES ARE ALSO THEIR SEEDS, AND THE UNWITTING ANIMALS SPREAD THEM AROUND.

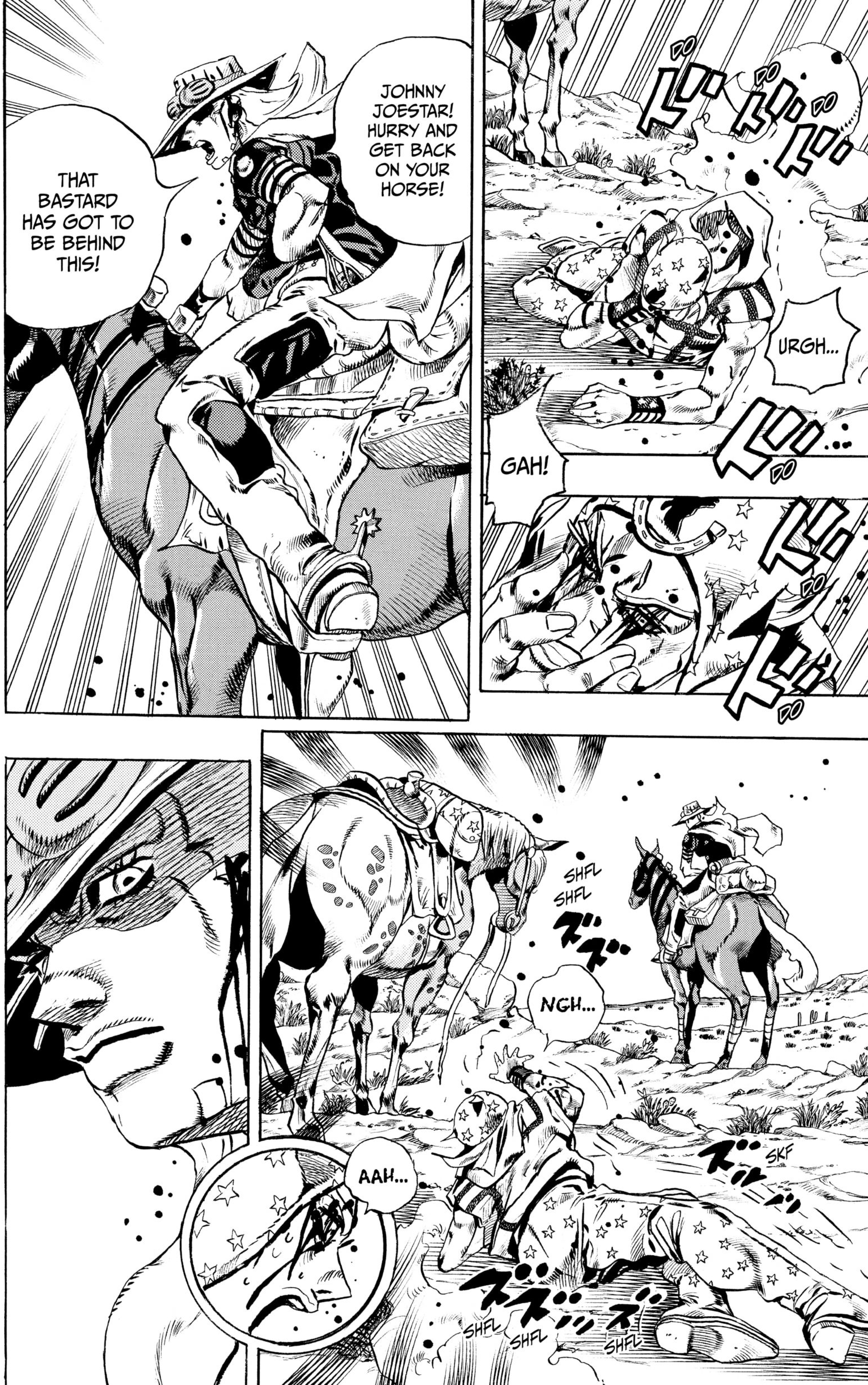

ペッ
PTOO
VWIP
VWIP
VWIP
DAMN.
THOSE MUST BE CHOLLAS.
A BIG CLUSTER OF 'EM ALL OVER THERE.
SO... WHOSE FAULT IS THIS?
DID WE DO THIS TO OURSELVES BY TRAMPING INTO A CACTUS PATCH?
OR IS THAT SOME TROUBLEMAKER WHO'S USING THE CACTI TO ATTACK US?

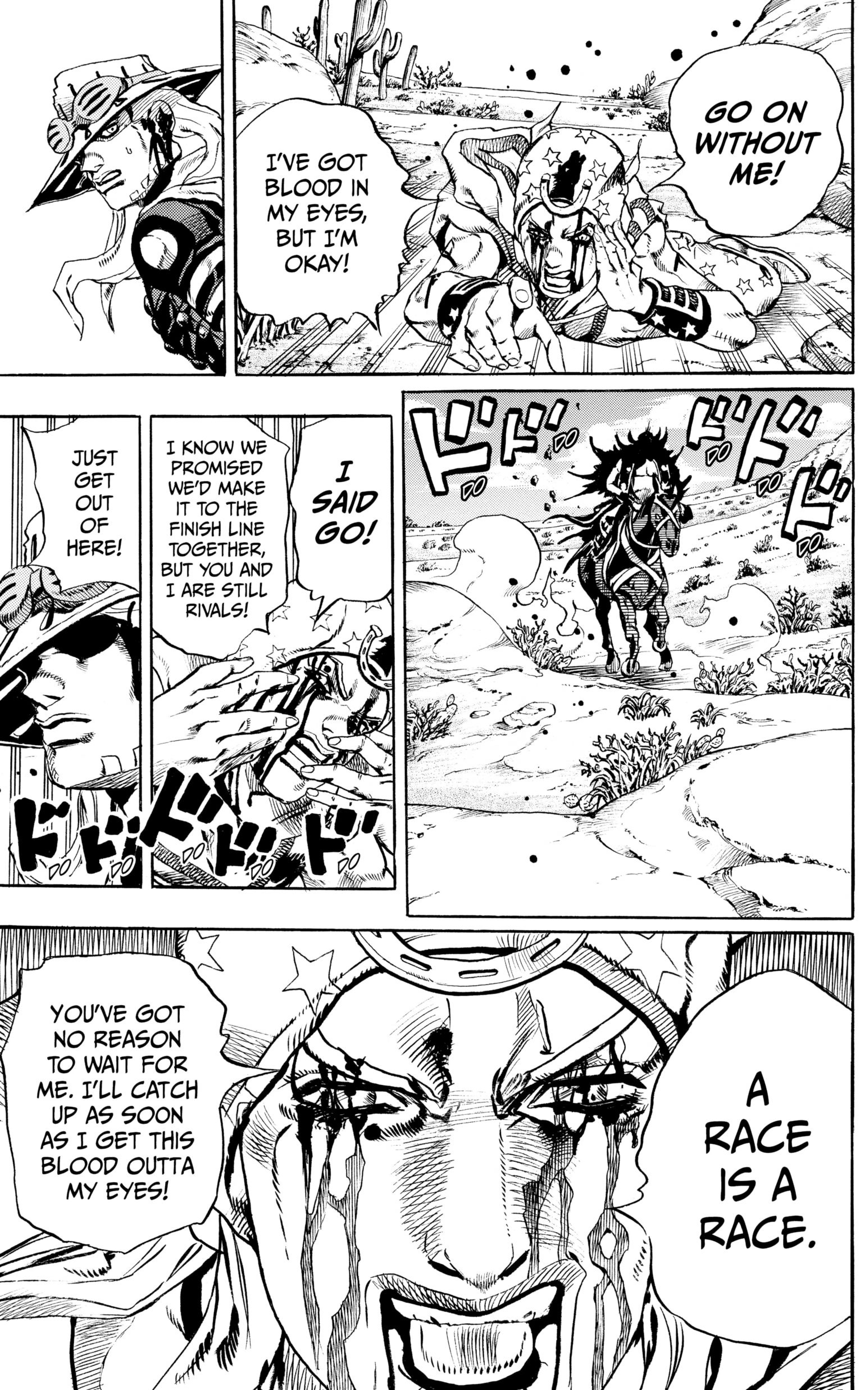

BA-DADUM
BA-DADUM
BA-DADUM
I DON'T KNOW, BUT...THAT CAN'T BE POSSIBLE!
YOU HAVE TO GET REALLY CLOSE TO THE CHOLLAS TO MAKE THEM SHOOT THEIR NEEDLES.
AND THAT RIDER ISN'T EVEN WITHIN RIFLE RANGE. EVEN IF HE IS SHOOTING SOMETHING AT US... I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'D BE ABLE TO AIM THAT CLOSE!
BUT HE'S GOT A DAMN GOOD MOTIVE FOR IT.
HE'D BE ABLE TO GET RID OF HIS RIVALS—NAMELY US—WITHOUT BEING PENALIZED BY THE JUDGES IN THE BALLOONS.
COULD BE HE DID THE SAME THING IN THE FIRST STAGE WITHOUT ANYONE NOTICING.
BA-DADUM
BA-DADUM
HE'S CIRCLING—BUT WE STILL DON'T KNOW IF HE'S ATTACKING US!
DAMMIT! WE HAVE TO GET AWAY FROM HERE.
THIS IS BAD, JOHNNY! WE'RE IN DEEP SHIT!
WE GOTTA RUN!
JOHNNY!
DOOM
ALL RIGHT! LET'S GO!

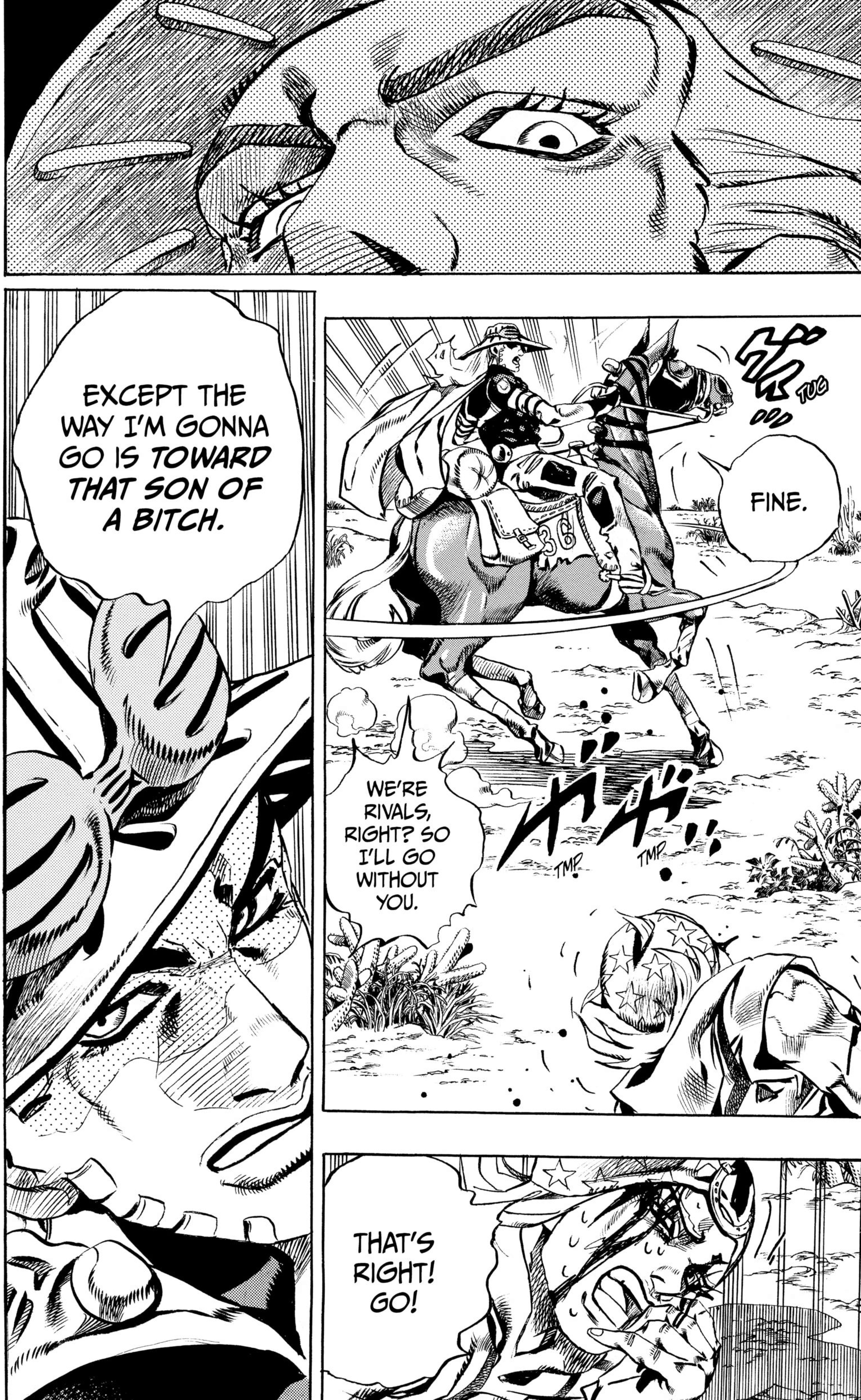
THUK
THUK
THUK
THUK
SNAP
...
FWOOM
THE REINS!
THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE! THEY CUT THROUGH MY REINS!

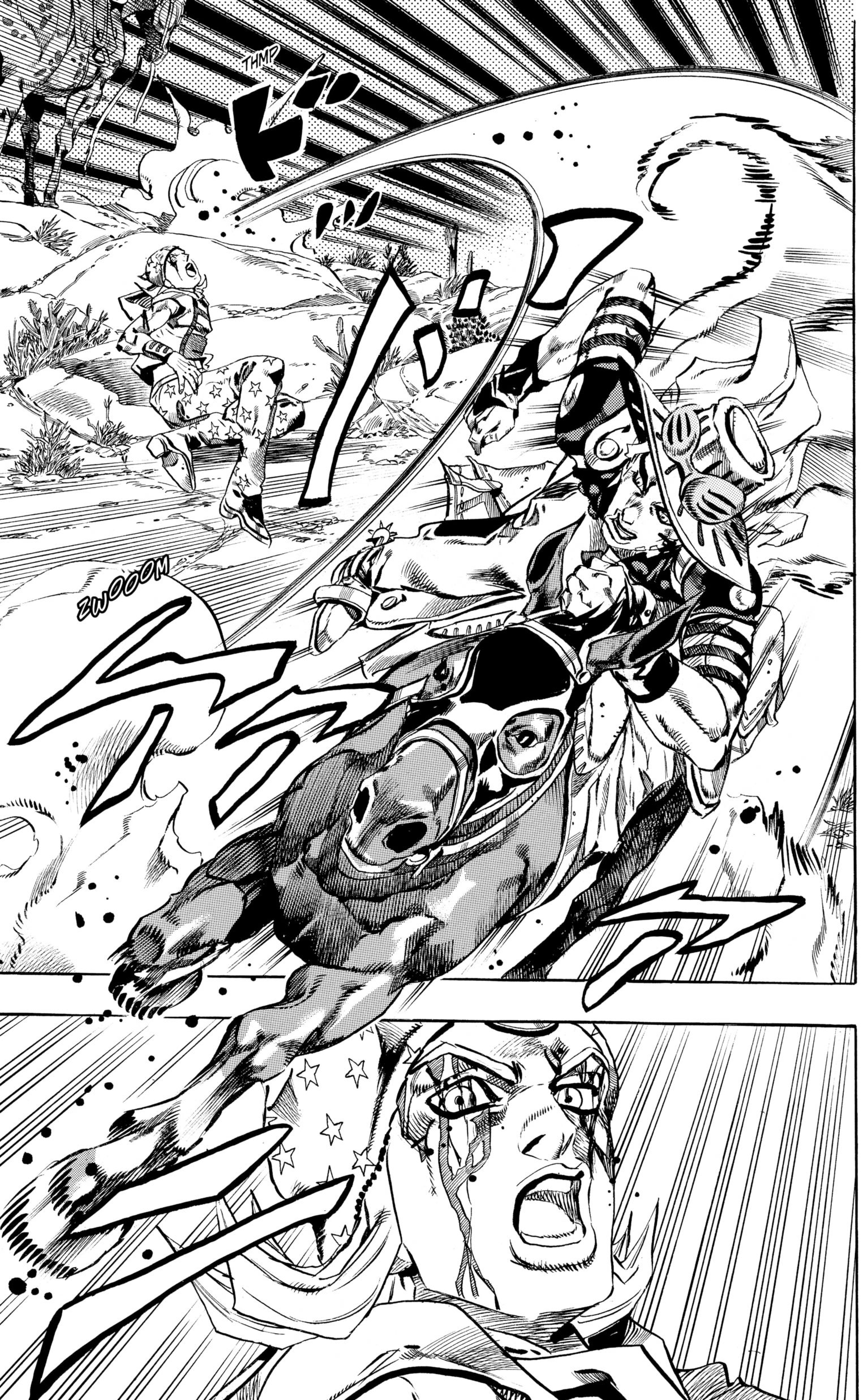

ズッドドドド
THUK
THUK
THUK
THUK
HOW CAN CACTI BE AIMING THIS WELL ...?
ザク
SHUNK
AAAAAAAAAUGH!

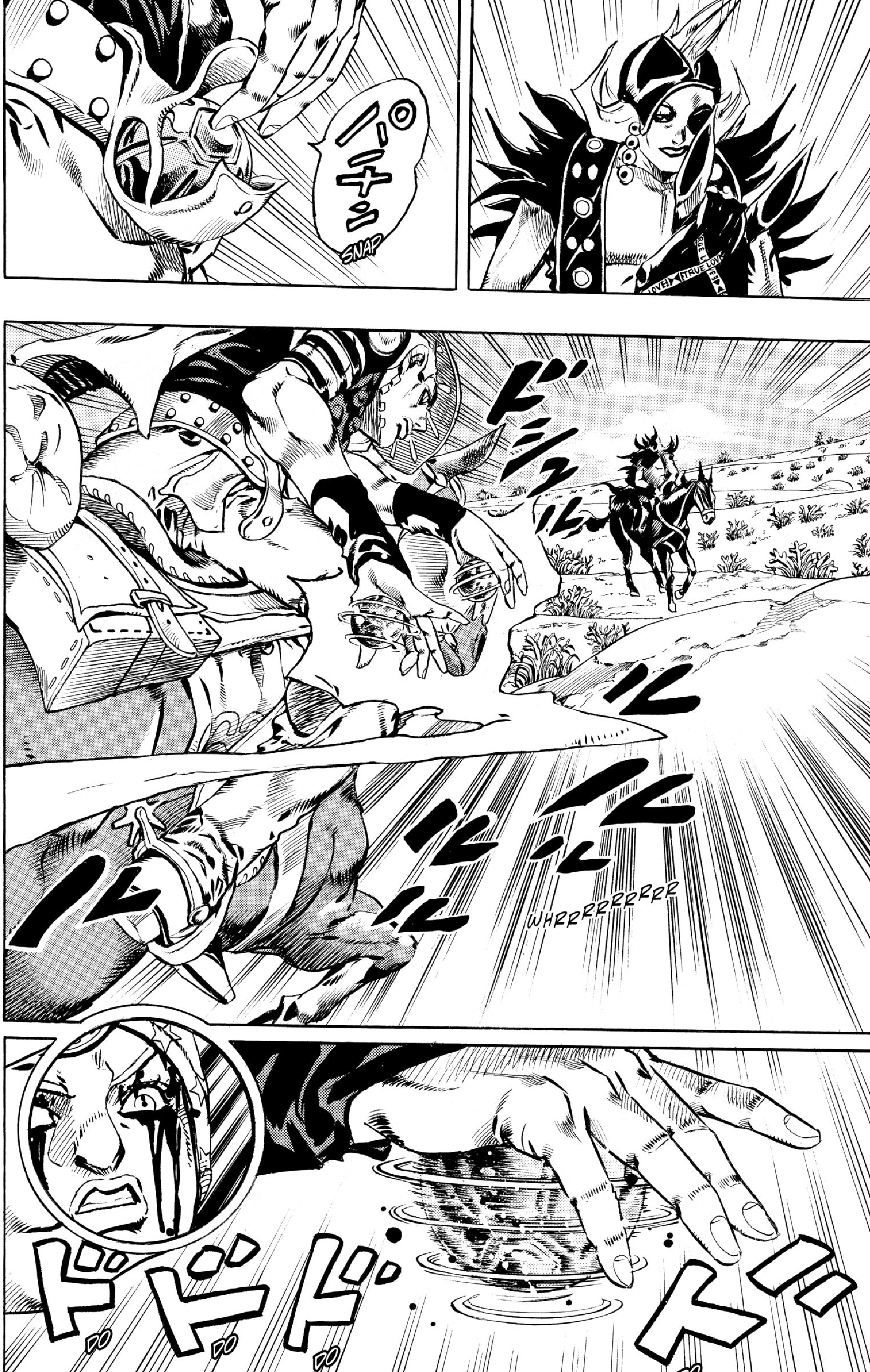

VWSH
ドシュッ
VWSH
ドシュッ
SHUK
ザグッ
ザグッ
SHUK
DO
ド
DO
ド
DO
ド
DO
ド
DO
ド
DO
ド
アアア
WHAAAAAM
ドバァ

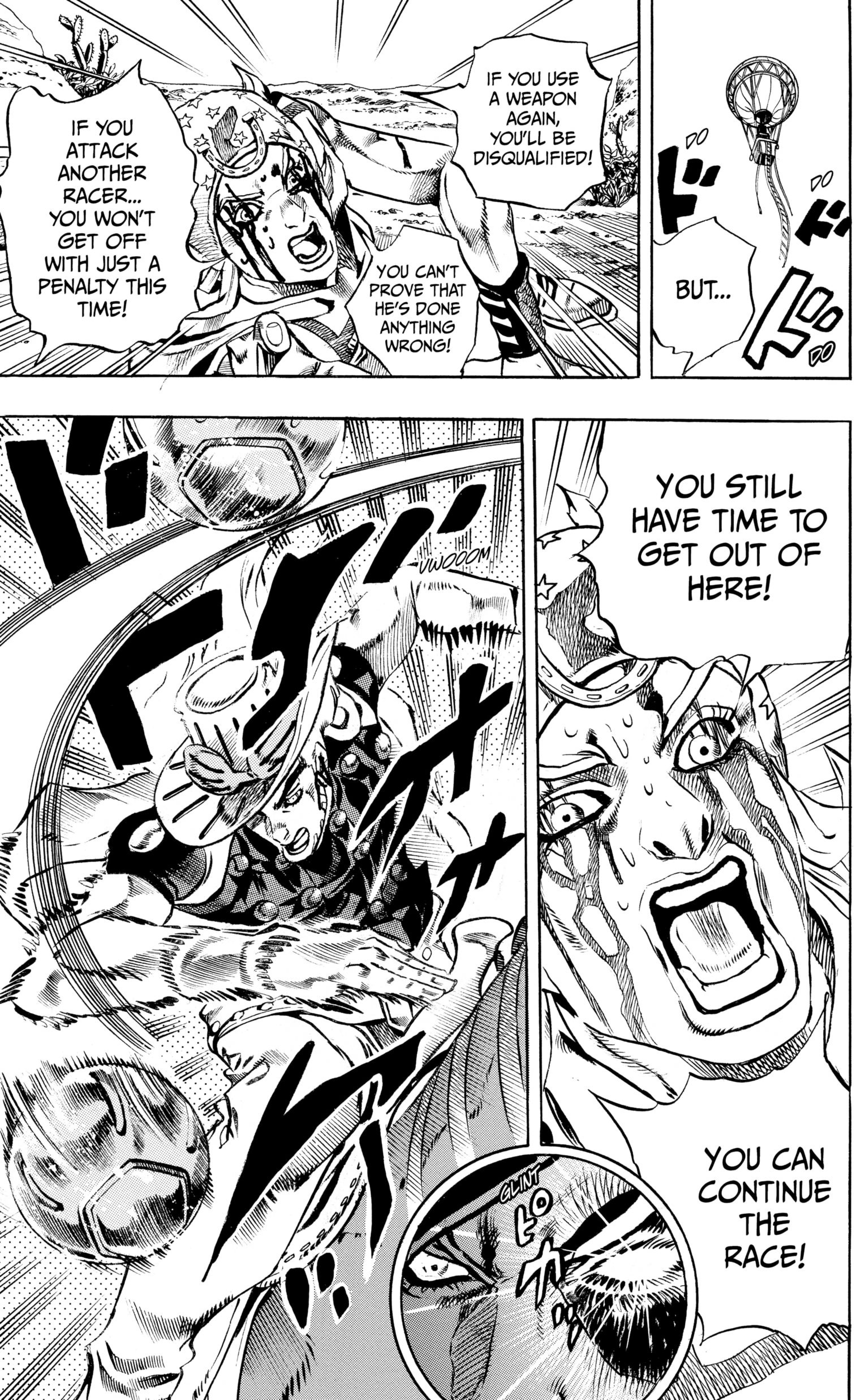

DO DO DO DO
URGH...
GAH!
DO DO DO
JOHNNY JOESTAR! HURRY AND GET BACK ON YOUR HORSE!
THAT BASTARD HAS GOT TO BE BEHIND THIS!
SHFL SHFL
NGH...
SKF
AAH...
SHFL SHFL SHFL


GO ON WITHOUT ME!
I'VE GOT BLOOD IN MY EYES, BUT I'M OKAY!
ドドドドド DO DO DO DO DO
I SAID GO!
I KNOW WE PROMISED WE'D MAKE IT TO THE FINISH LINE TOGETHER, BUT YOU AND I ARE STILL RIVALS!
JUST GET OUT OF HERE!
ドドドドドド DO DO DO DO
A RACE IS A RACE.
YOU'VE GOT NO REASON TO WAIT FOR ME. I'LL CATCH UP AS SOON AS I GET THIS BLOOD OUTTA MY EYES!

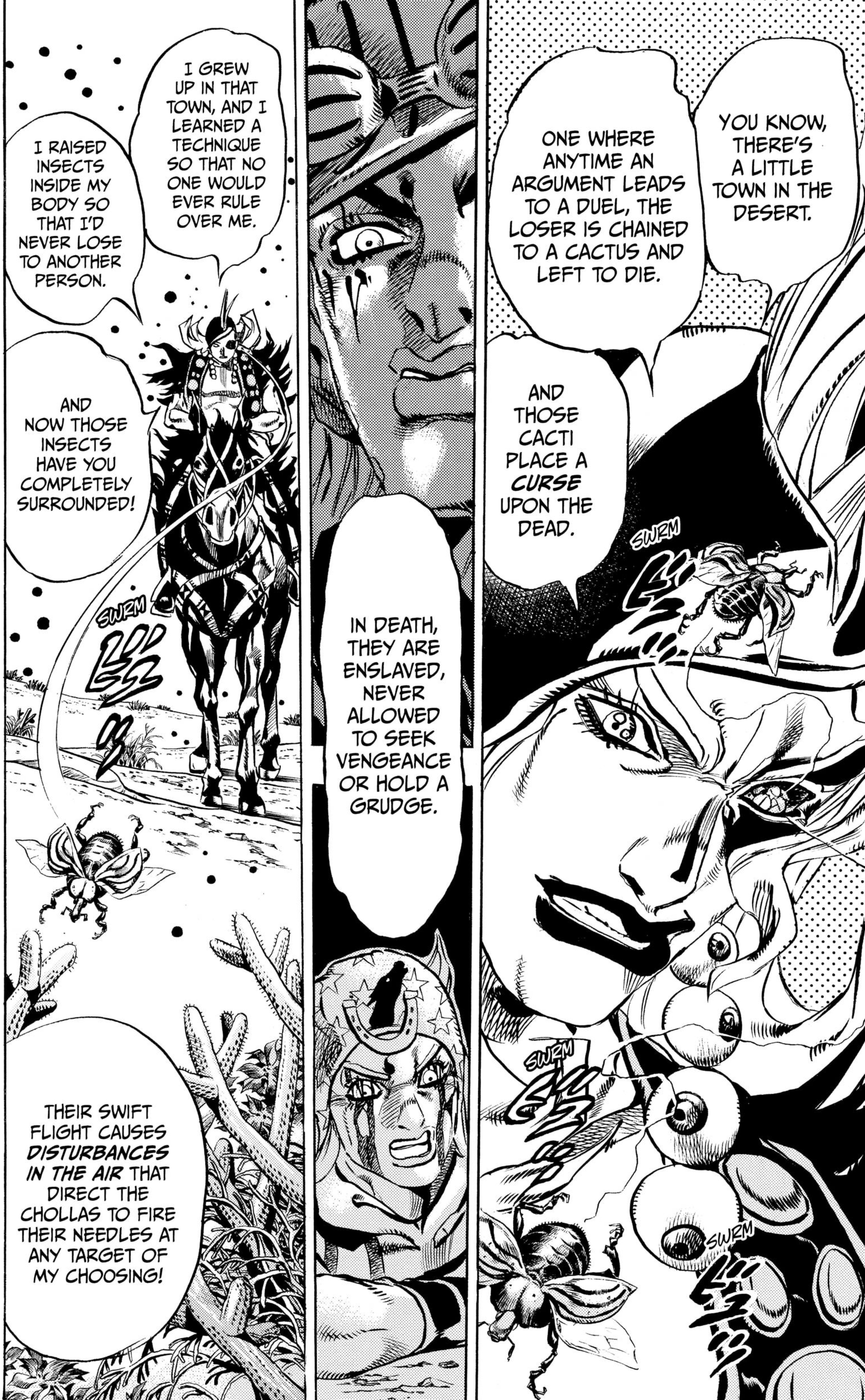

FINE.
TUG
WE'RE RIVALS, RIGHT? SO I'LL GO WITHOUT YOU.
TMP
TMP
THAT'S RIGHT! GO!
EXCEPT THE WAY I'M GONNA GO IS *TOWARD THAT SON OF A BITCH.*

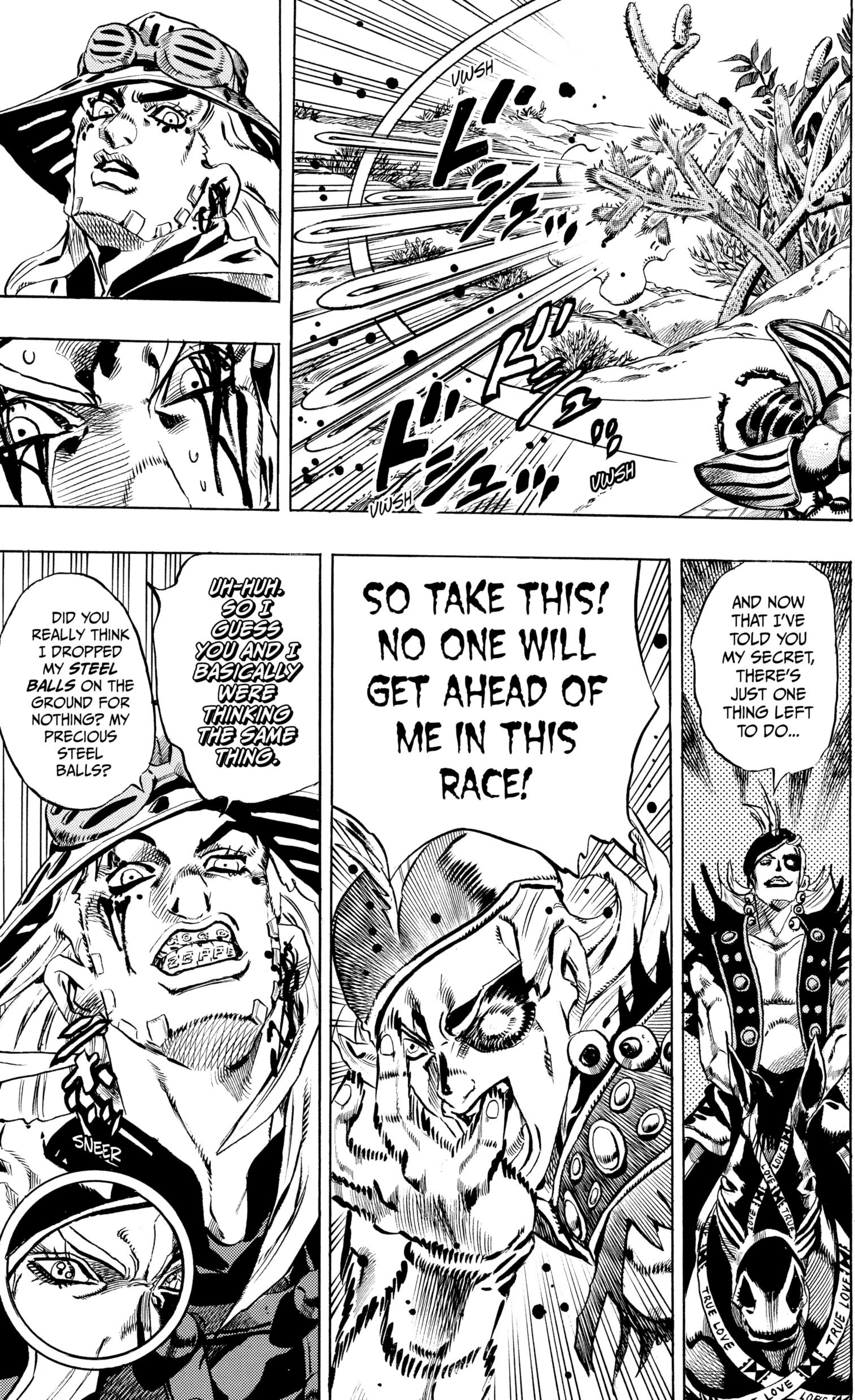

THMP
ZWOOOM

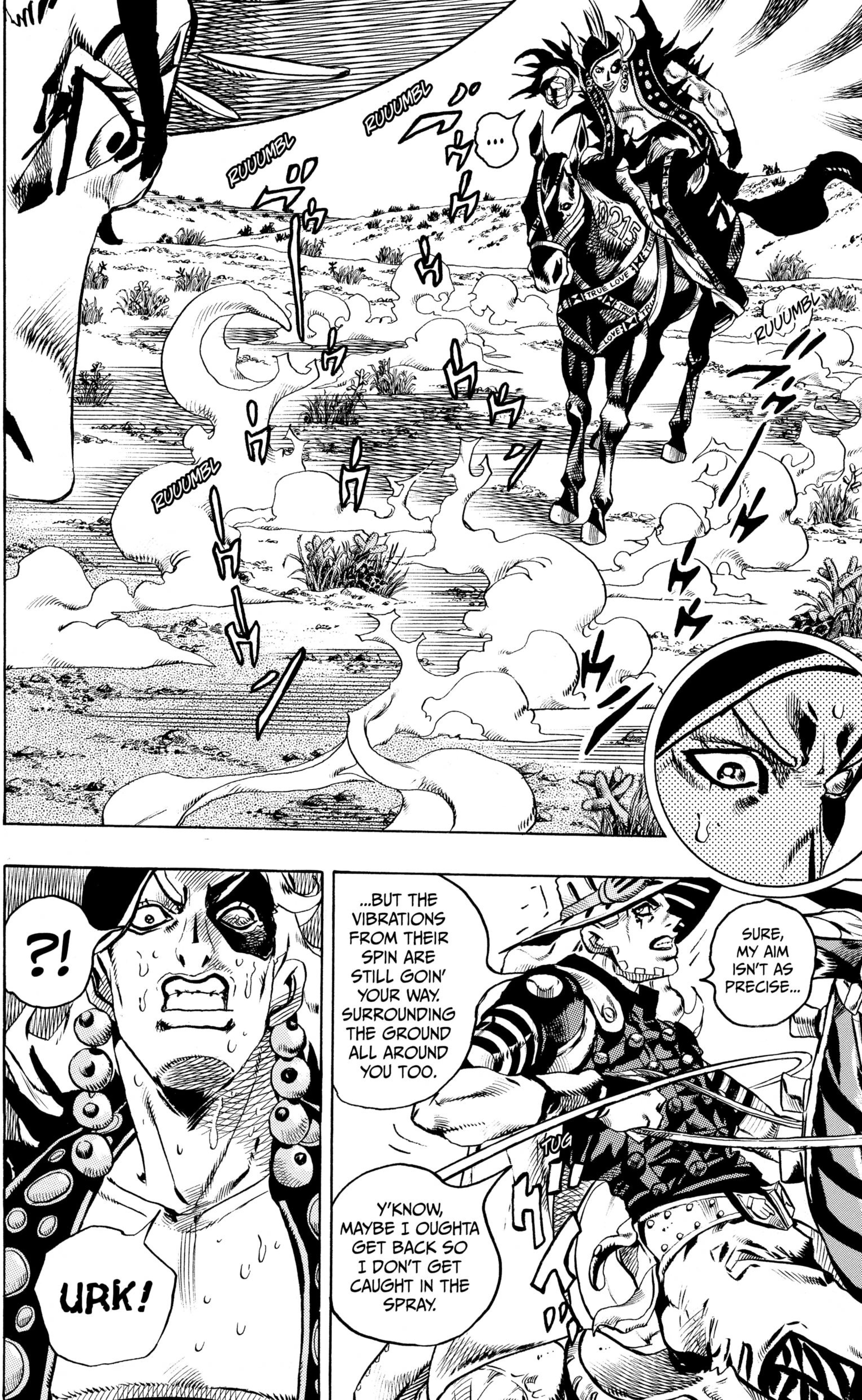

パチン
SNAP
ドシュルルルルルルル
WHRRRRRRRRR
ドドドドド
DO
DO
DO
DO

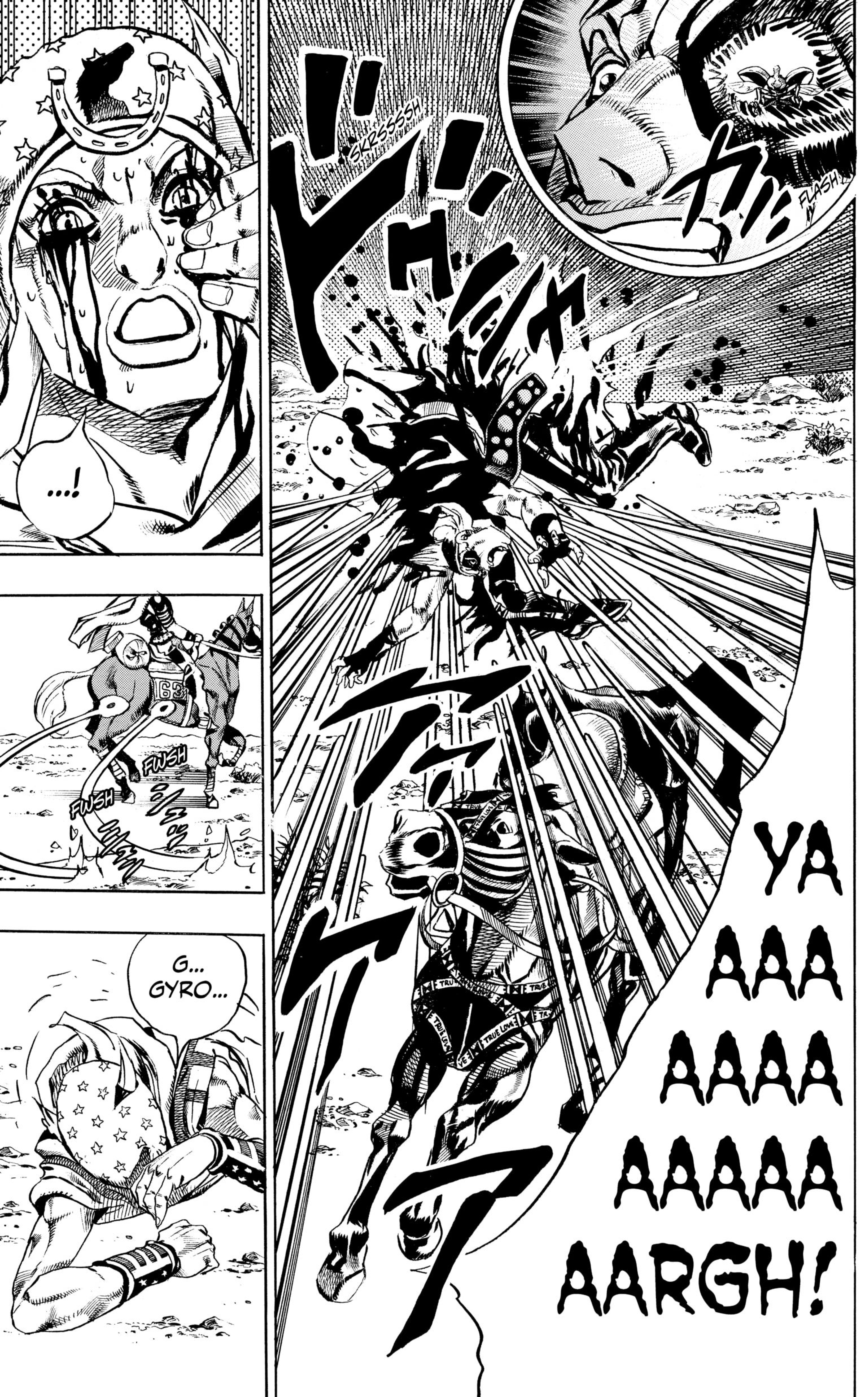

DO
DO
BUT...
DO
IF YOU USE A WEAPON AGAIN, YOU'LL BE DISQUALIFIED!
YOU CAN'T PROVE THAT HE'S DONE ANYTHING WRONG!
IF YOU ATTACK ANOTHER RACER... YOU WON'T GET OFF WITH JUST A PENALTY THIS TIME!
YOU STILL HAVE TIME TO GET OUT OF HERE!
YOU CAN CONTINUE THE RACE!
CLINT
DO
VWOOOM

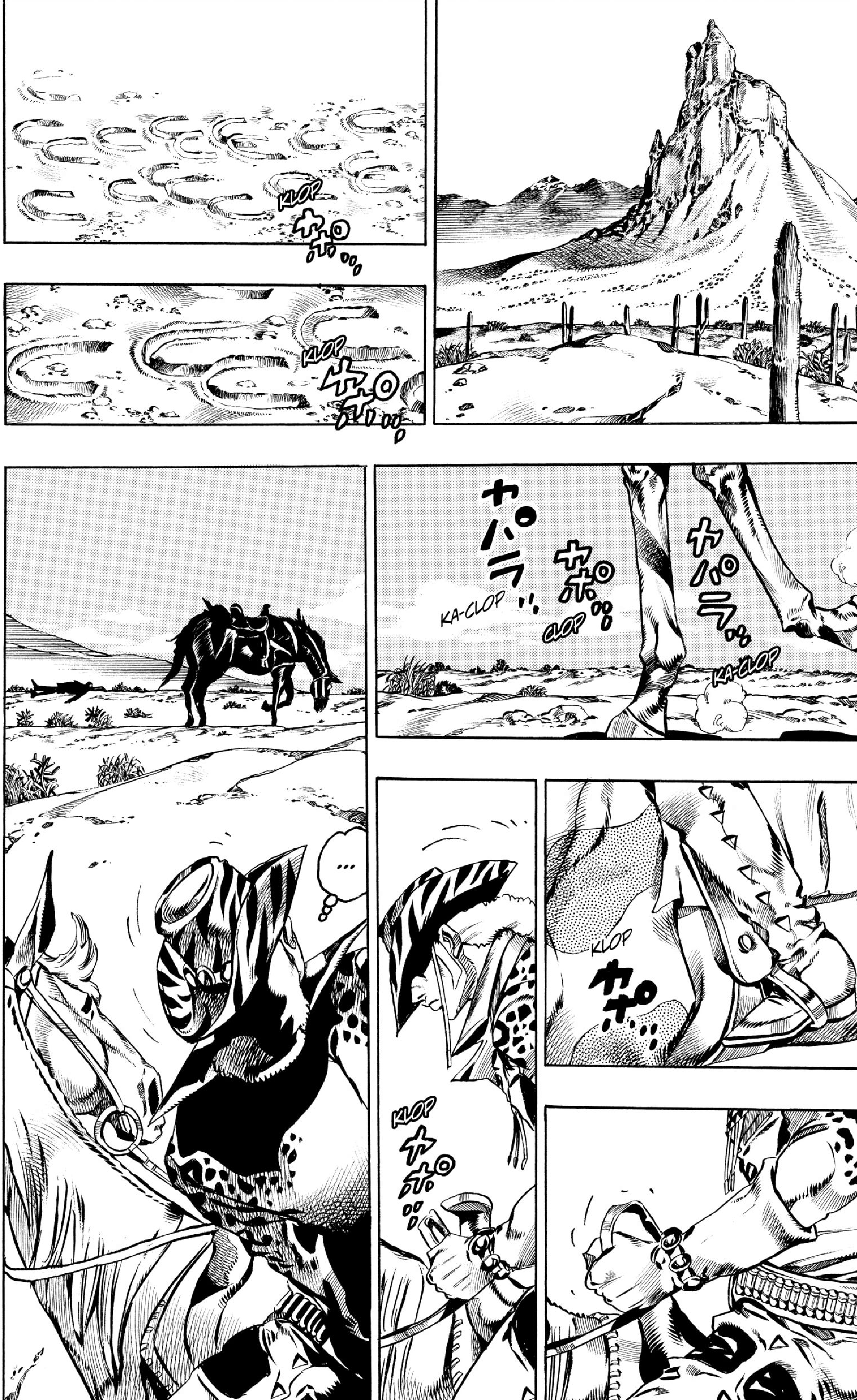
NGH!
VWOOOOSH
NUGH!
WHOA!
FWM
THUK
THUK
!!
HE BLOCKED THEM...?!
DO
DO
DO
DO
SWRM
SWRM
SWRM
SWRM
SWRM
SWRM
SWRM

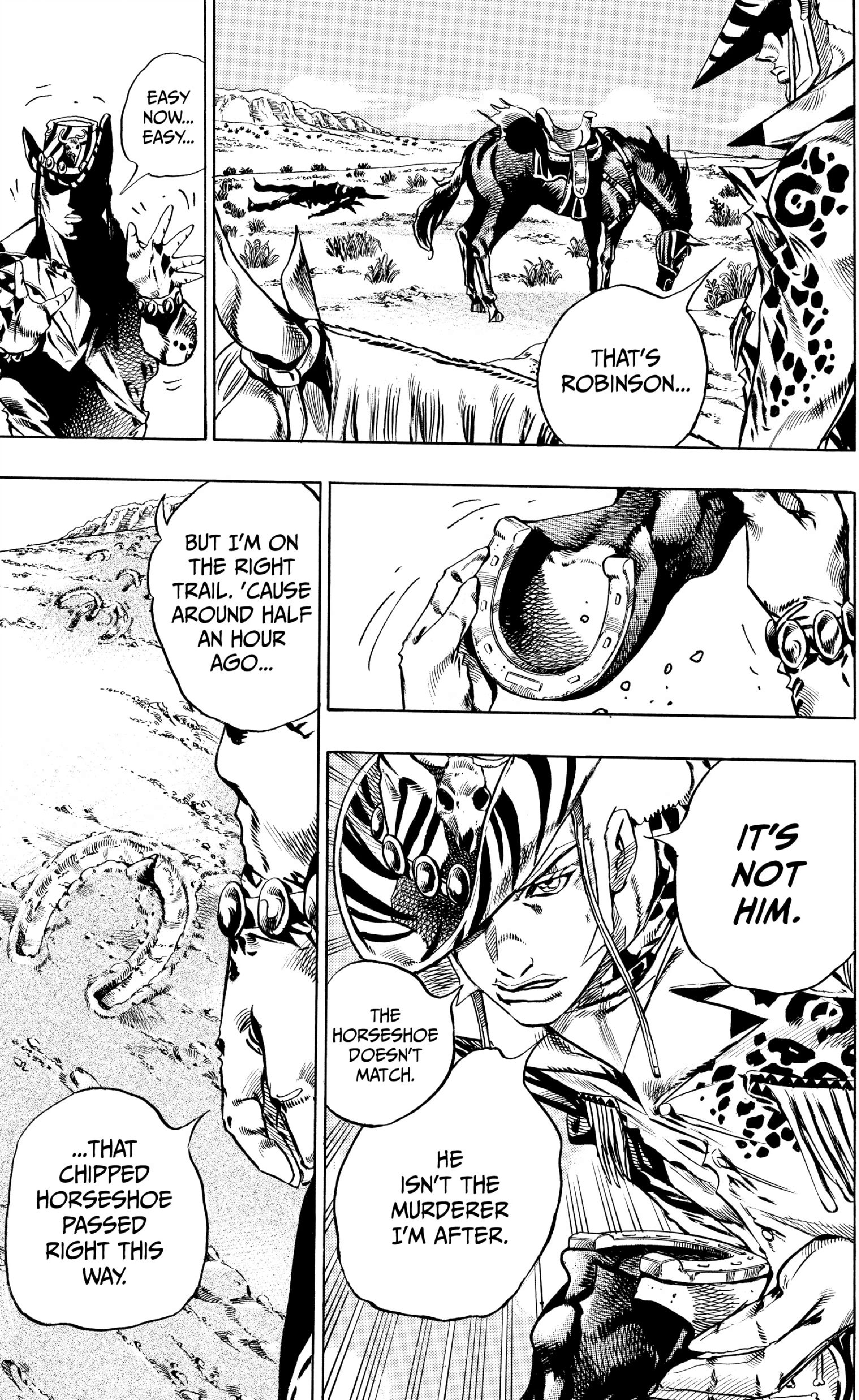

YOU KNOW, THERE'S A LITTLE TOWN IN THE DESERT.
ONE WHERE ANYTIME AN ARGUMENT LEADS TO A DUEL, THE LOSER IS CHAINED TO A CACTUS AND LEFT TO DIE.
AND THOSE CACTI PLACE A **CURSE** UPON THE DEAD.
SWRM
SWRM
SWRM
IN DEATH, THEY ARE ENSLAVED, NEVER ALLOWED TO SEEK VENGEANCE OR HOLD A GRUDGE.
I GREW UP IN THAT TOWN, AND I LEARNED A TECHNIQUE SO THAT NO ONE WOULD EVER RULE OVER ME.
I RAISED INSECTS INSIDE MY BODY SO THAT I'D NEVER LOSE TO ANOTHER PERSON.
AND NOW THOSE INSECTS HAVE YOU COMPLETELY SURROUNDED!
SWRM
THEIR SWIFT FLIGHT CAUSES ***DISTURBANCES IN THE AIR*** THAT DIRECT THE CHOLLAS TO FIRE THEIR NEEDLES AT ANY TARGET OF MY CHOOSING!


VWSH
ドシュッ
ドシュ
VWSH
ドシュッ
VWSH
AND NOW THAT I'VE TOLD YOU MY SECRET, THERE'S JUST ONE THING LEFT TO DO...
SO TAKE THIS! NO ONE WILL GET AHEAD OF ME IN THIS RACE!
UH-HUH. SO I GUESS YOU AND I BASICALLY WERE THINKING THE SAME THING.
DID YOU REALLY THINK I DROPPED MY STEEL BALLS ON THE GROUND FOR NOTHING? MY PRECIOUS STEEL BALLS?
SNEER
TRUE LOVE


…
RUUUMBL
RUUUMBL
RUUUMBL
RUUUMBL
TRUE LOVE
0215
SURE, MY AIM ISN'T AS PRECISE...
...BUT THE VIBRATIONS FROM THEIR SPIN ARE STILL GOIN' YOUR WAY. SURROUNDING THE GROUND ALL AROUND YOU TOO.
TUG
Y'KNOW, MAYBE I OUGHTA GET BACK SO I DON'T GET CAUGHT IN THE SPRAY.
DD
?!
URK!

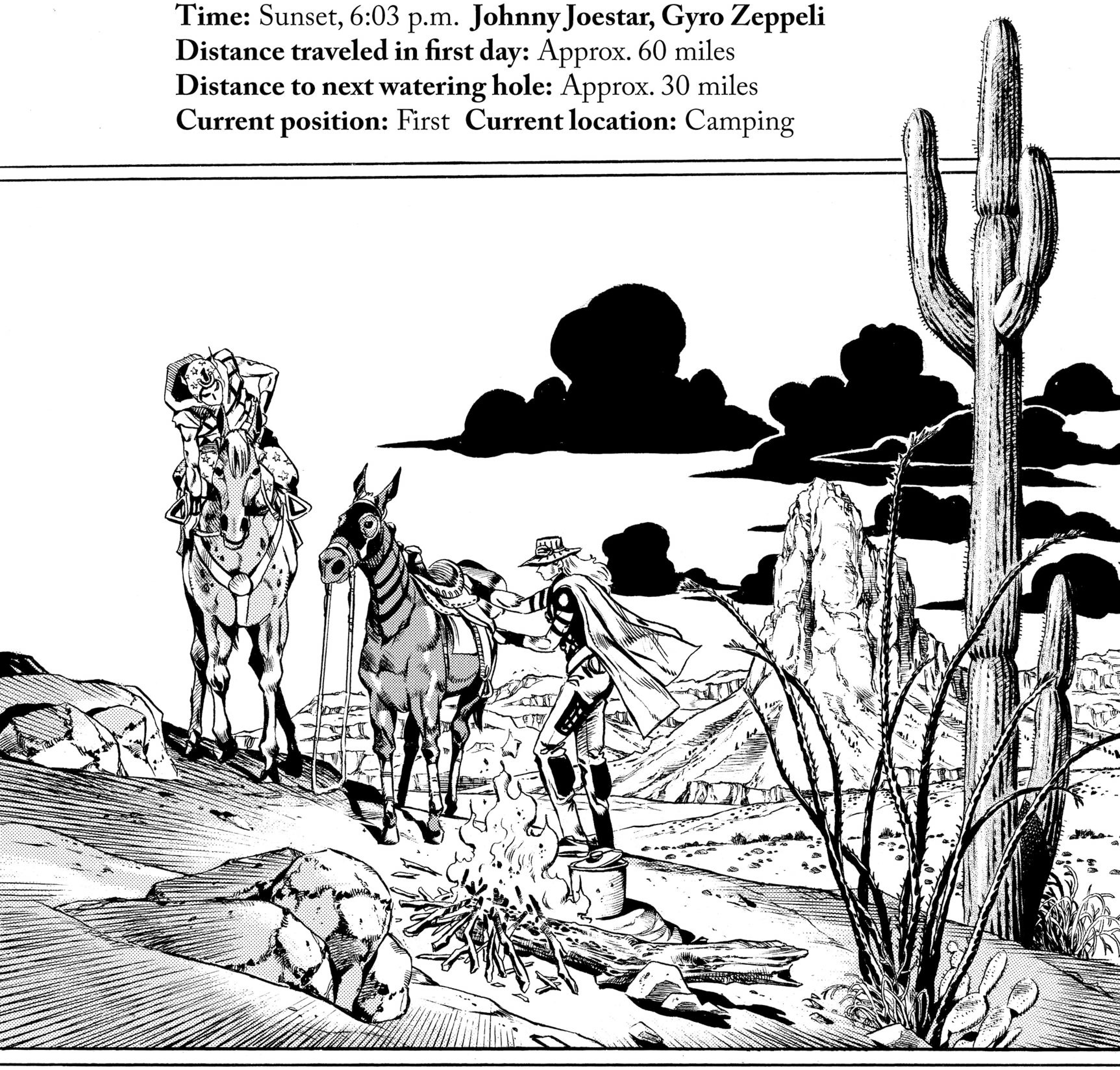

FLASH
カッ
SKRSSSSH
YA AAA AAAA AAAAA AARGH!
...!
FWSH
FWSH
G... GYRO...


KLOP
カポ…
KLOP
カポ…
カパラッ
KA-CLOP
カポッ
CLOP
カパラッ
KA-CLOP
…
KLOP
カポ…
KLOP
カポ…


EASY NOW... EASY...
THAT'S ROBINSON...
BUT I'M ON THE RIGHT TRAIL. 'CAUSE AROUND HALF AN HOUR AGO...
...THAT CHIPPED HORSESHOE PASSED RIGHT THIS WAY.
IT'S NOT HIM.
THE HORSESHOE DOESN'T MATCH.
HE ISN'T THE MURDERER I'M AFTER.

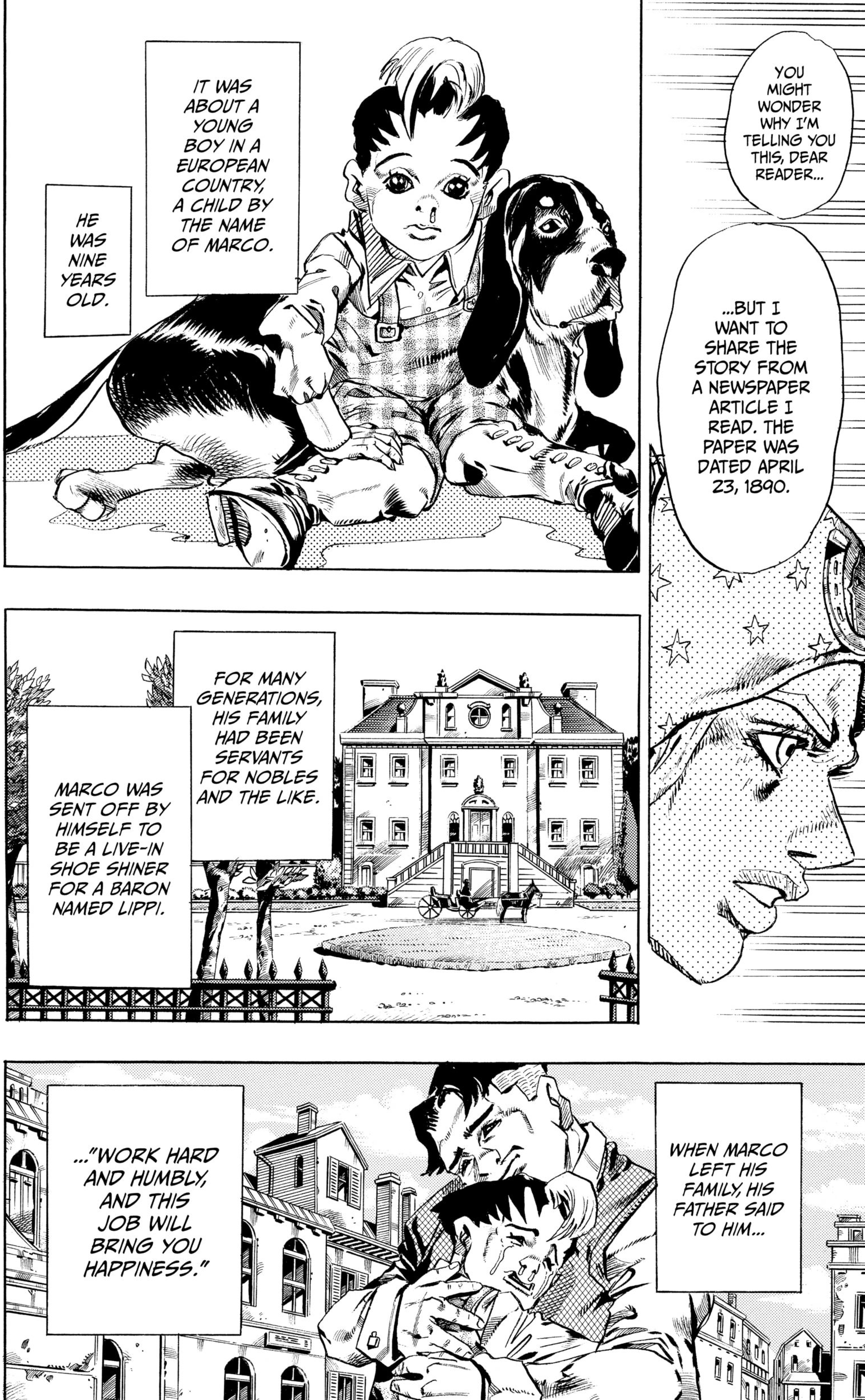
Second Stage, End of Day One

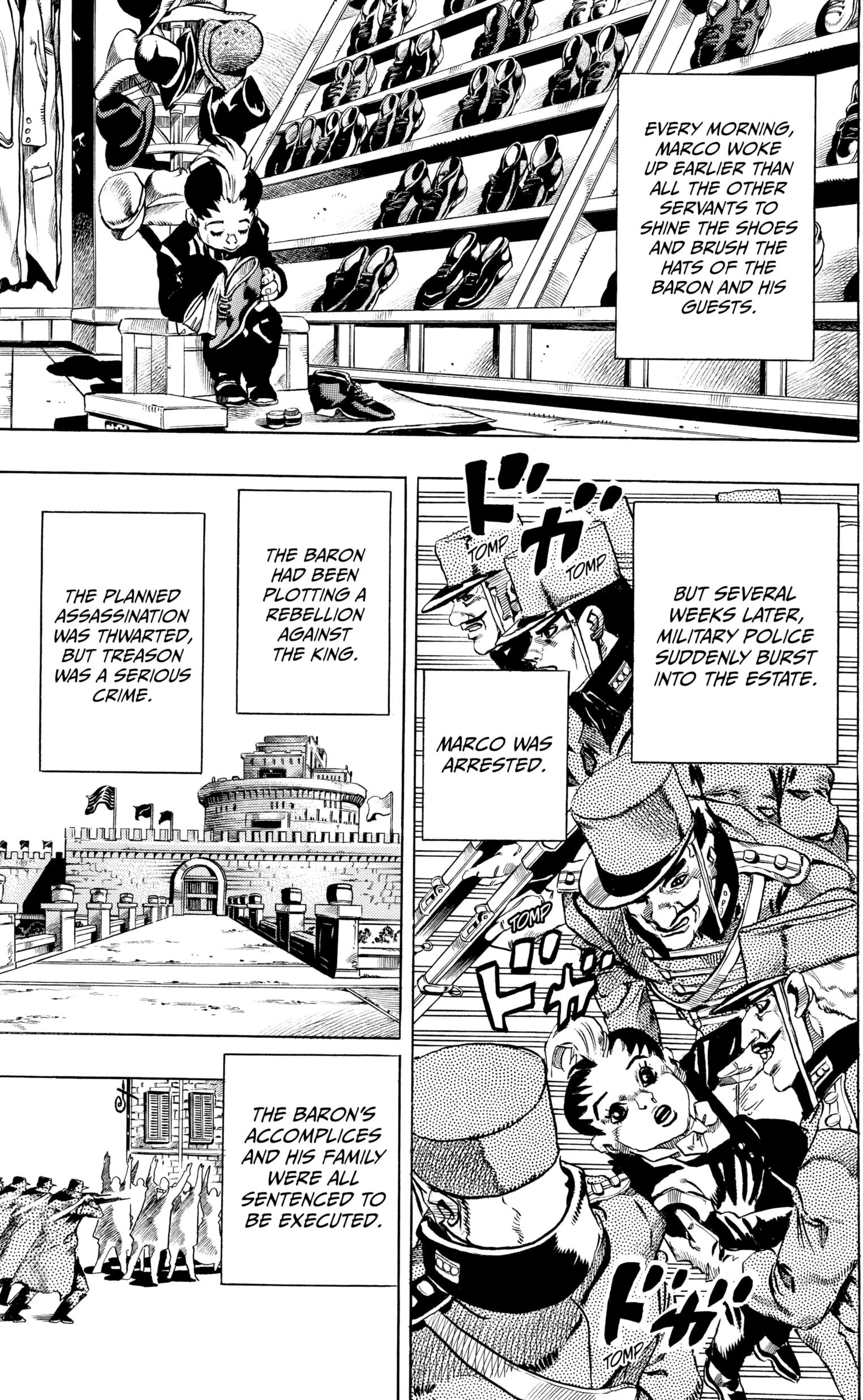
Time: Sunset, 6:03 p.m. **Johnny Joestar, Gyro Zeppeli**
Distance traveled in first day: Approx. 60 miles
Distance to next watering hole: Approx. 30 miles
Current position: First **Current location:** Camping

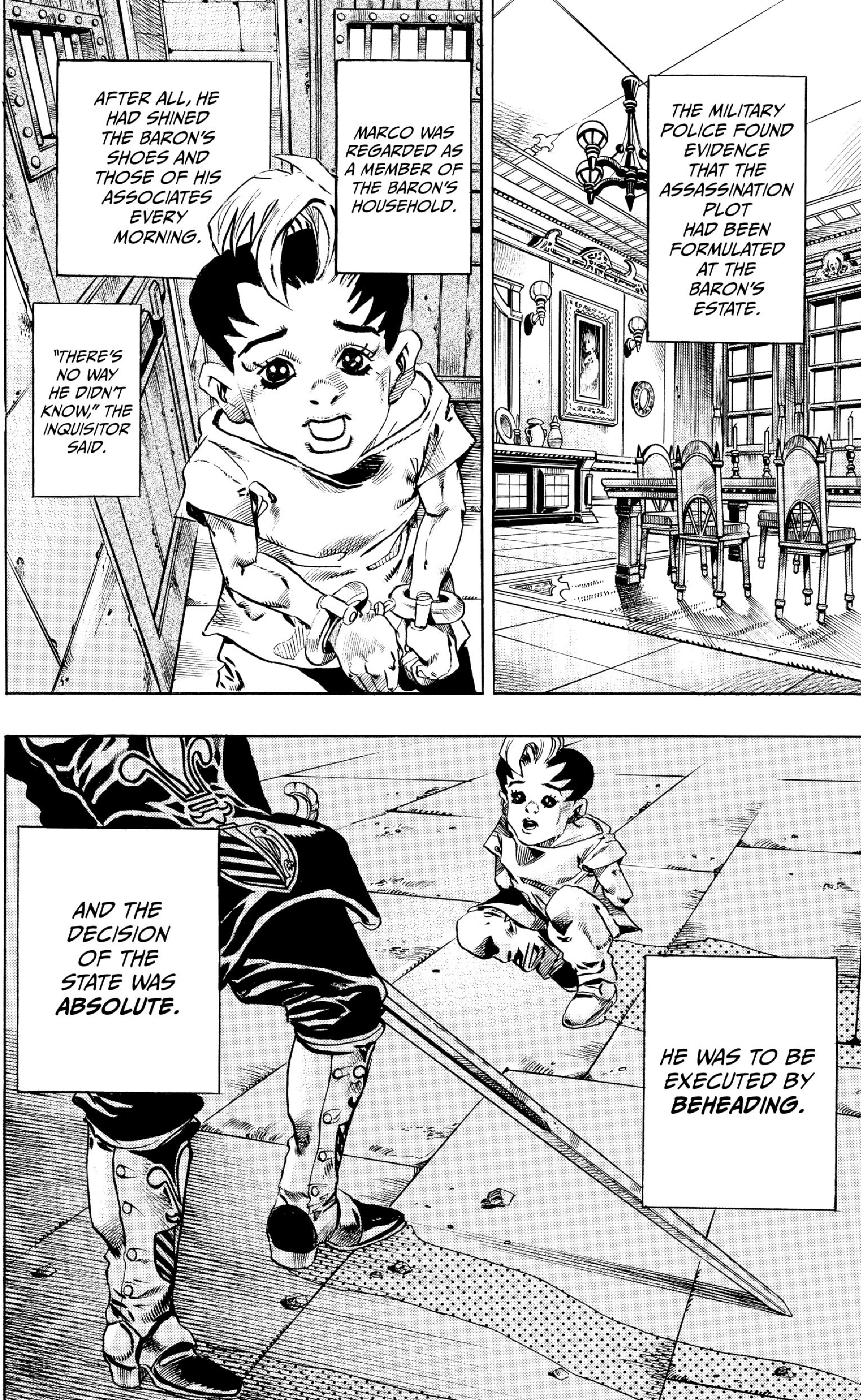


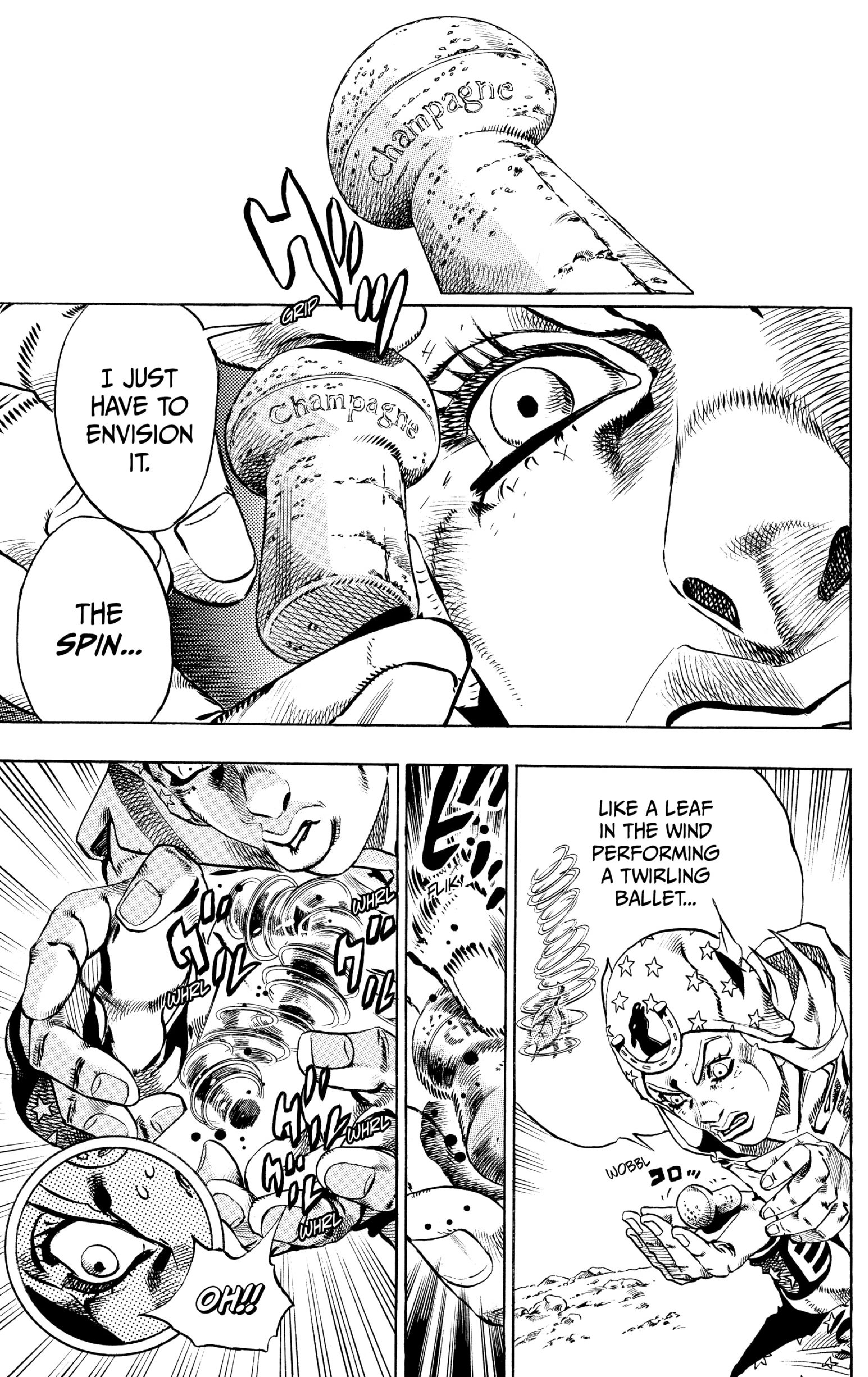
CHAPTER 15:

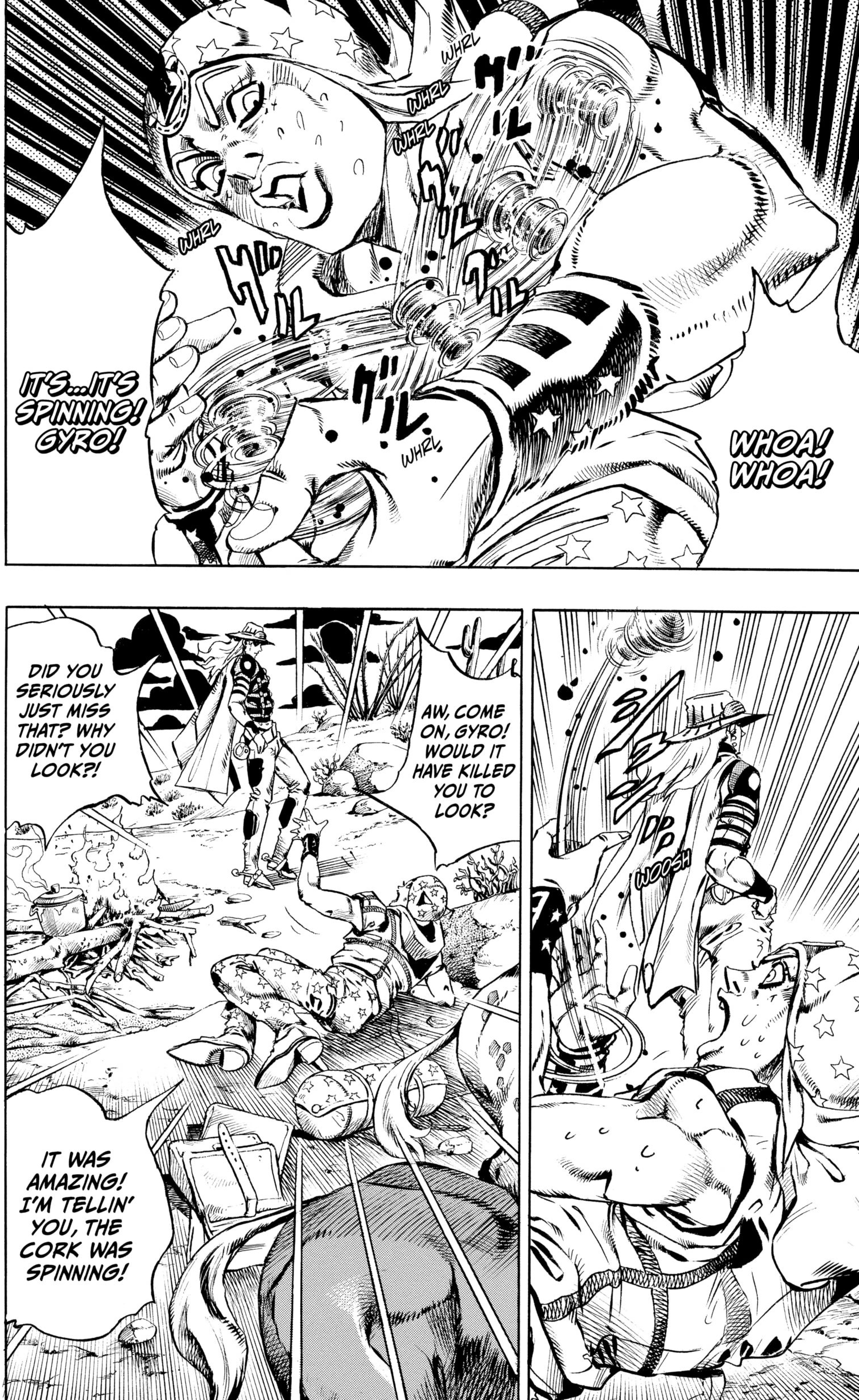
The Desert-Born Outlaws, Part 1

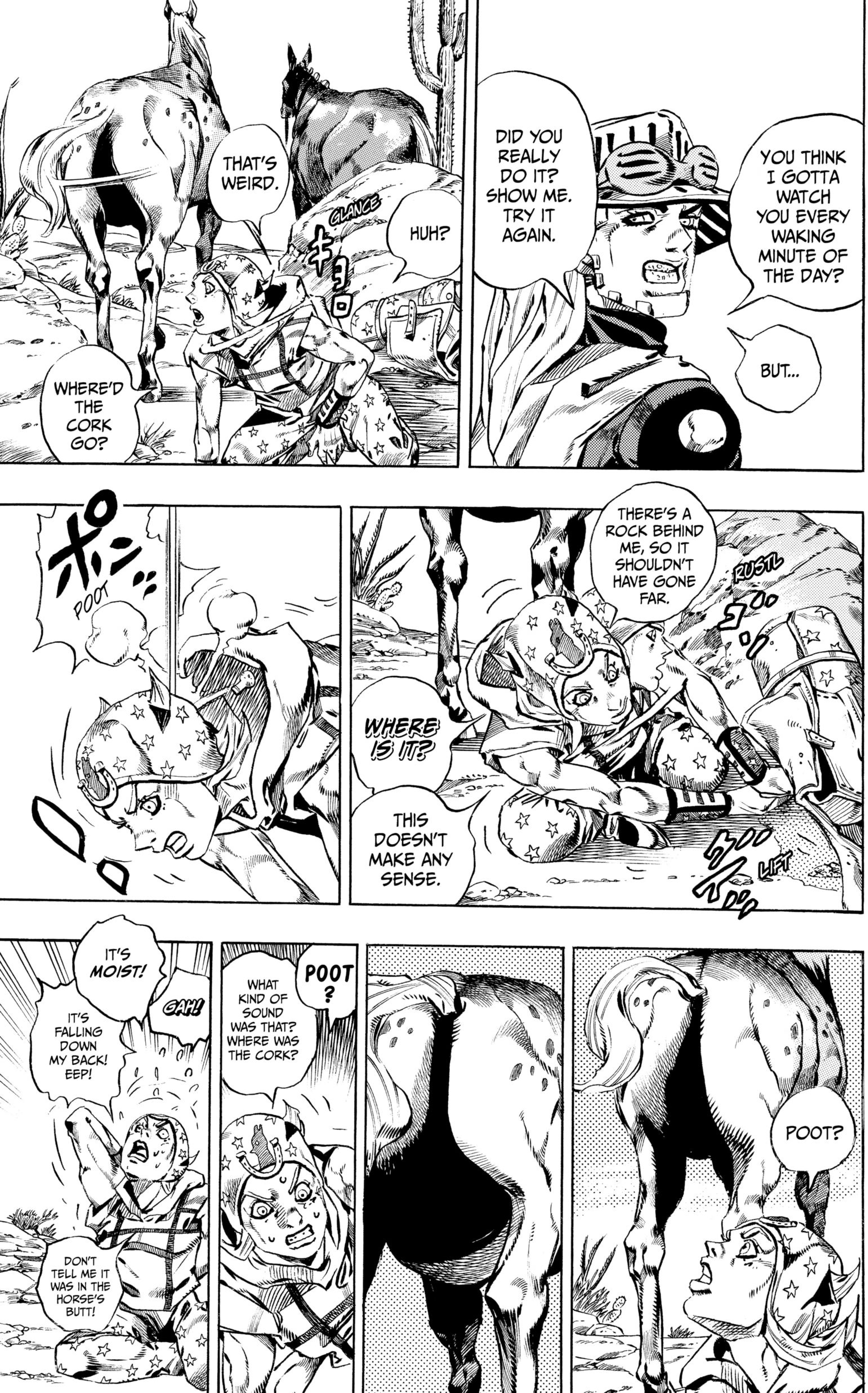

YOU MIGHT WONDER WHY I'M TELLING YOU THIS, DEAR READER...
...BUT I WANT TO SHARE THE STORY FROM A NEWSPAPER ARTICLE I READ. THE PAPER WAS DATED APRIL 23, 1890.
IT WAS ABOUT A YOUNG BOY IN A EUROPEAN COUNTRY, A CHILD BY THE NAME OF MARCO.
HE WAS NINE YEARS OLD.
FOR MANY GENERATIONS, HIS FAMILY HAD BEEN SERVANTS FOR NOBLES AND THE LIKE.
MARCO WAS SENT OFF BY HIMSELF TO BE A LIVE-IN SHOE SHINER FOR A BARON NAMED LIPPI.
WHEN MARCO LEFT HIS FAMILY, HIS FATHER SAID TO HIM...
..."WORK HARD AND HUMBLY, AND THIS JOB WILL BRING YOU HAPPINESS."

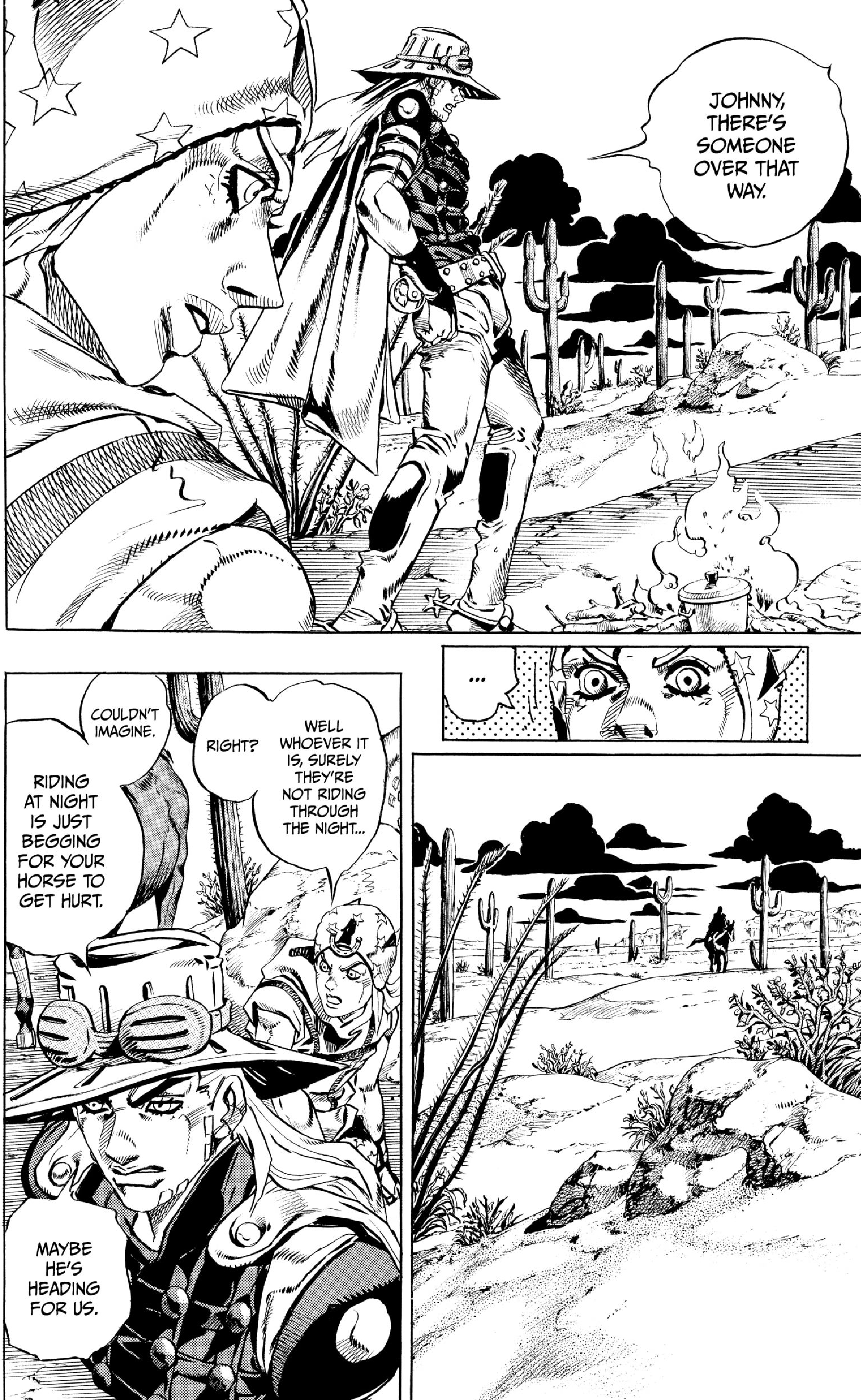

EVERY MORNING, MARCO WOKE UP EARLIER THAN ALL THE OTHER SERVANTS TO SHINE THE SHOES AND BRUSH THE HATS OF THE BARON AND HIS GUESTS.
ドガ
TOMP
TOMP
BUT SEVERAL WEEKS LATER, MILITARY POLICE SUDDENLY BURST INTO THE ESTATE.
MARCO WAS ARRESTED.
TOMP
ドガ
ドガ
TOMP
THE BARON HAD BEEN PLOTTING A REBELLION AGAINST THE KING.
THE PLANNED ASSASSINATION WAS THWARTED, BUT TREASON WAS A SERIOUS CRIME.
THE BARON'S ACCOMPLICES AND HIS FAMILY WERE ALL SENTENCED TO BE EXECUTED.

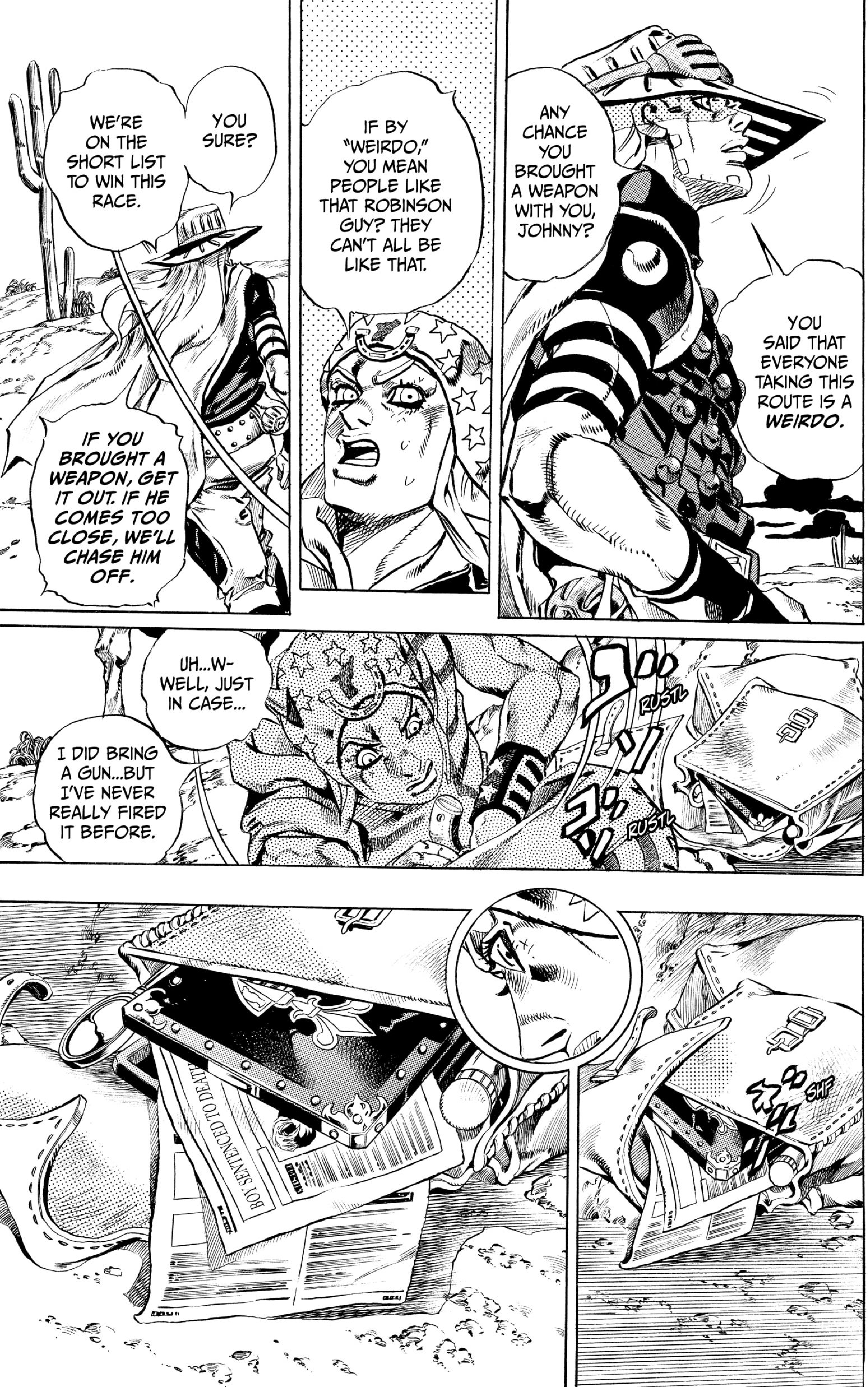

THE MILITARY POLICE FOUND EVIDENCE THAT THE ASSASSINATION PLOT HAD BEEN FORMULATED AT THE BARON'S ESTATE.
MARCO WAS REGARDED AS A MEMBER OF THE BARON'S HOUSEHOLD.
AFTER ALL, HE HAD SHINED THE BARON'S SHOES AND THOSE OF HIS ASSOCIATES EVERY MORNING.
"THERE'S NO WAY HE DIDN'T KNOW," THE INQUISITOR SAID.
AND THE DECISION OF THE STATE WAS **ABSOLUTE.**
HE WAS TO BE EXECUTED BY **BEHEADING.**

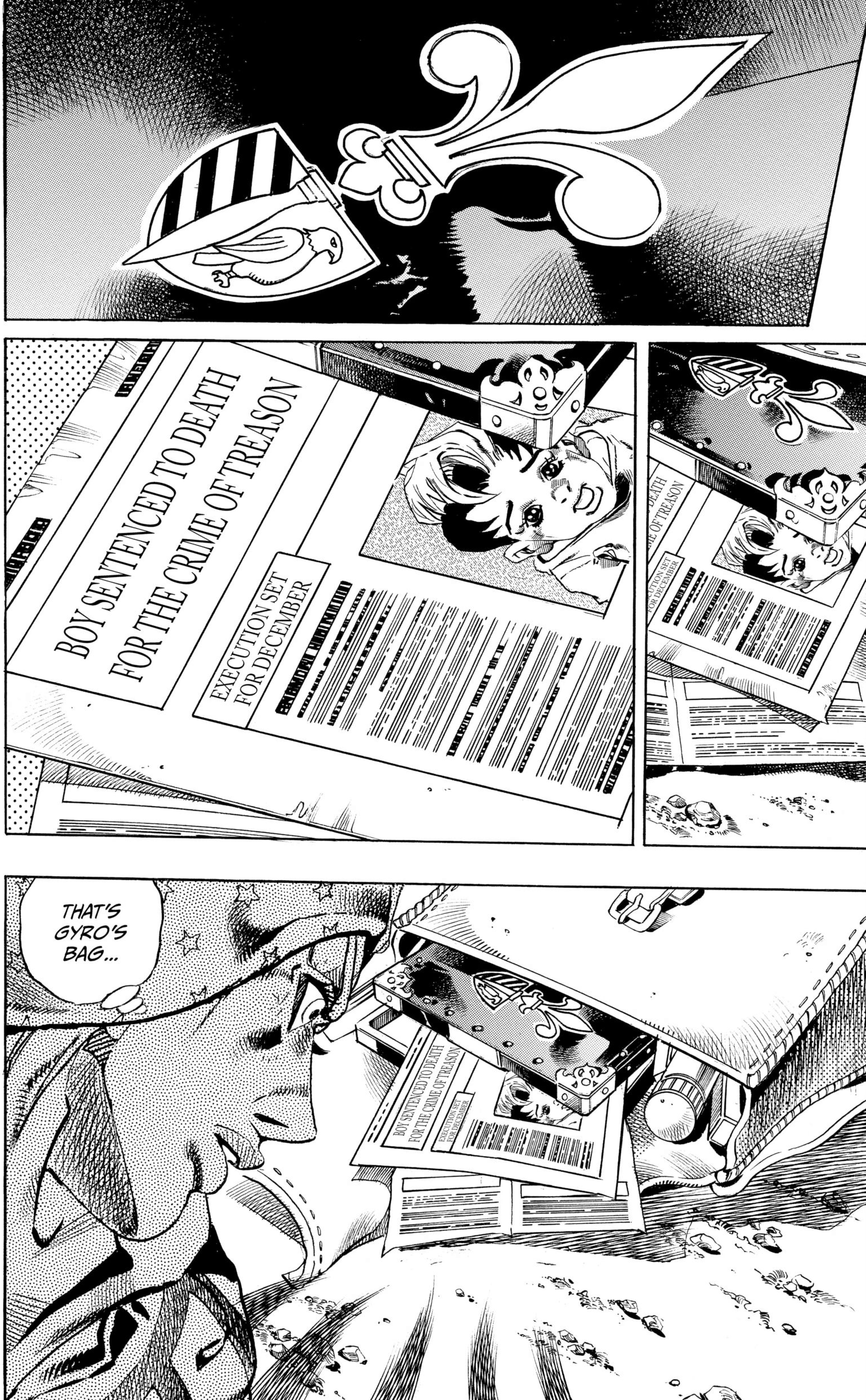

Champagne
GRIP
Champagne
I JUST HAVE TO ENVISION IT.
THE SPIN...
LIKE A LEAF IN THE WIND PERFORMING A TWIRLING BALLET...
WOBBL
FLIK
WHRL
WHRL
WHRL
WHRL
OH!!

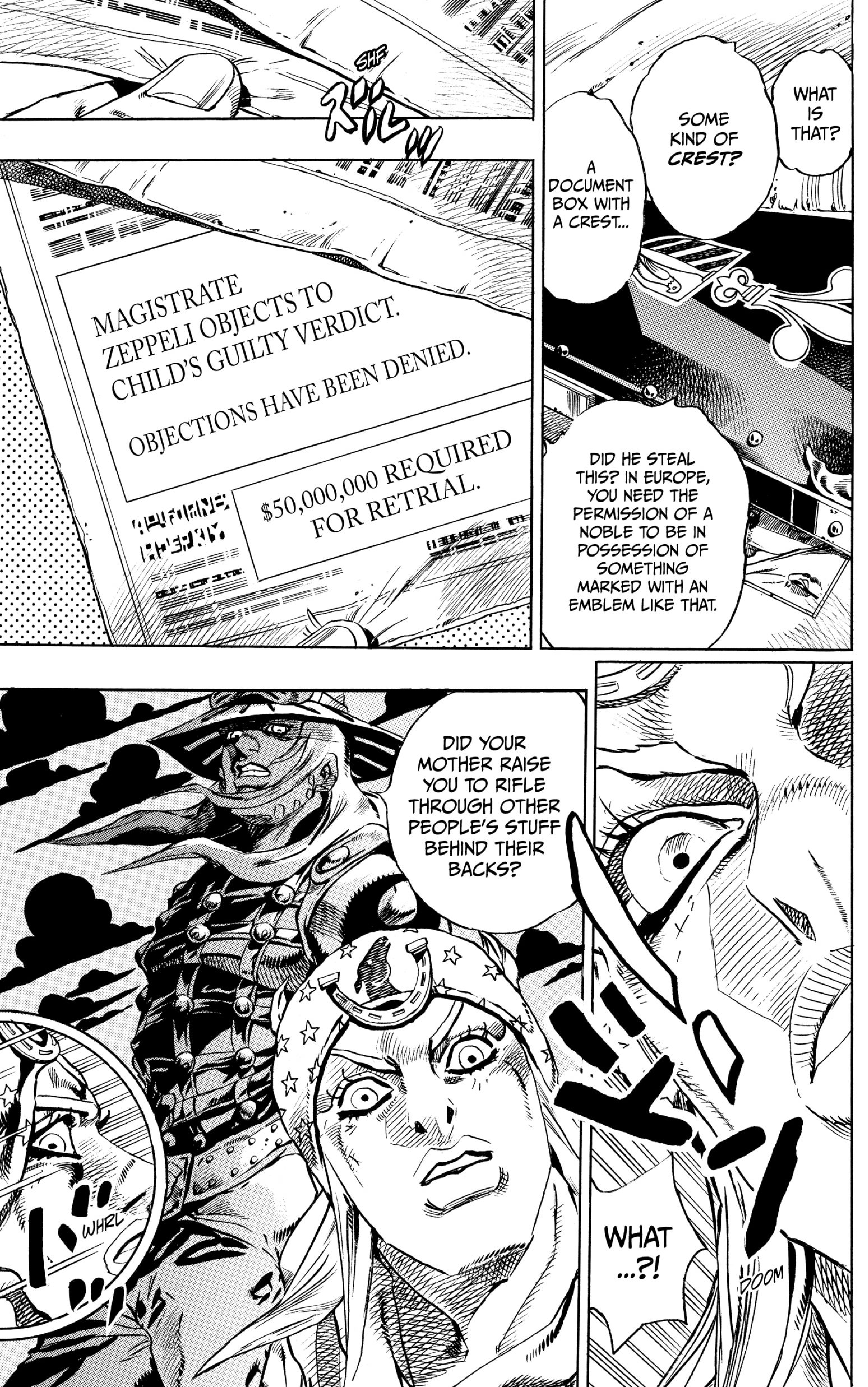

WHOA! WHOA!
WHRL
WHRL
WHRL
WHRL
WHRL
IT'S...IT'S SPINNING! GYRO!
WOOSH
AW, COME ON, GYRO! WOULD IT HAVE KILLED YOU TO LOOK?
DID YOU SERIOUSLY JUST MISS THAT? WHY DIDN'T YOU LOOK?!
IT WAS AMAZING! I'M TELLIN' YOU, THE CORK WAS SPINNING!

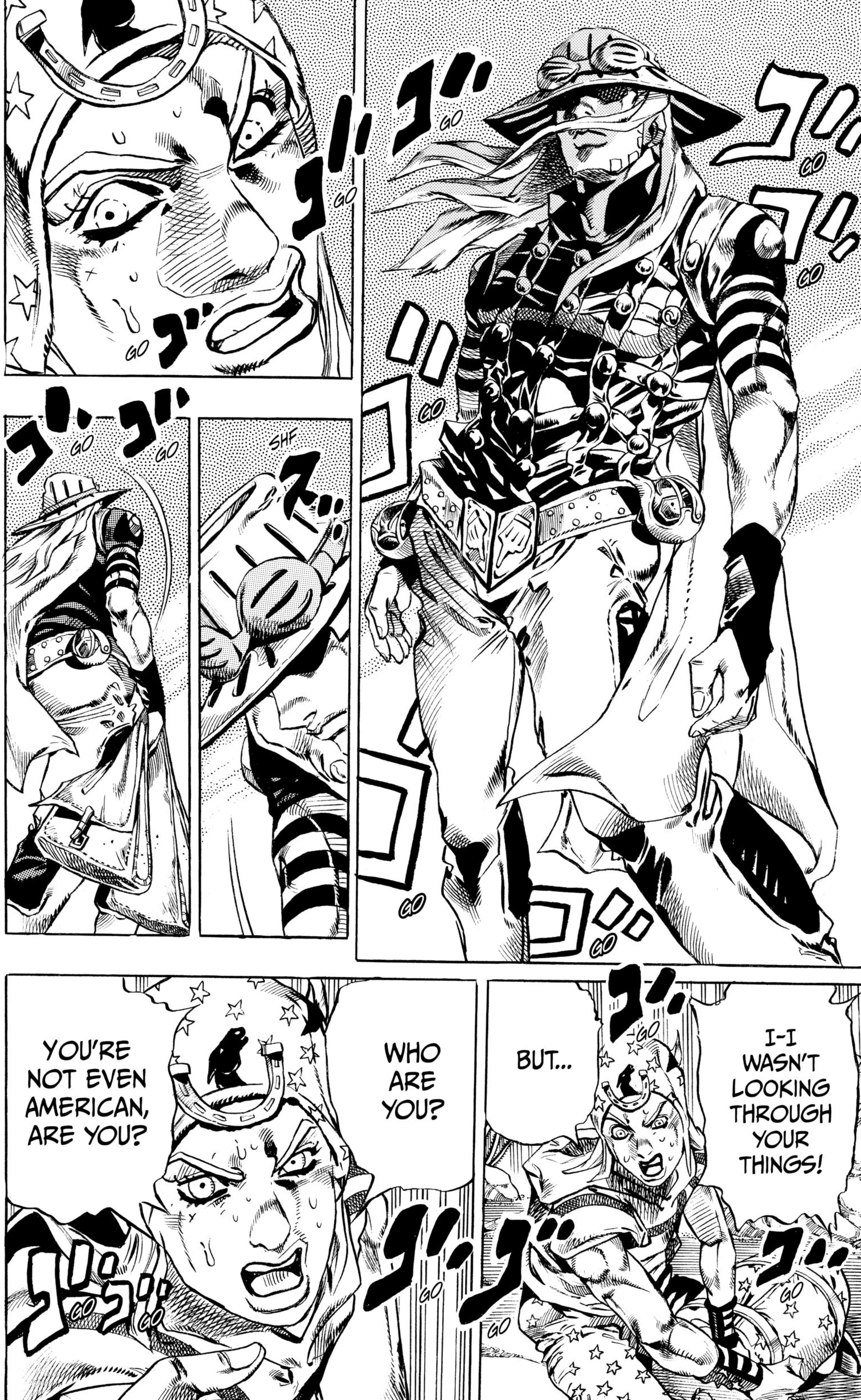

YOU THINK I GOTTA WATCH YOU EVERY WAKING MINUTE OF THE DAY?
BUT...
DID YOU REALLY DO IT? SHOW ME. TRY IT AGAIN.
HUH?
GLANCE
キョロ
THAT'S WEIRD.
WHERE'D THE CORK GO?
THERE'S A ROCK BEHIND ME, SO IT SHOULDN'T HAVE GONE FAR.
RUSTL
WHERE IS IT?
THIS DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE.
LIFT
ポン
POOT
POOT?
POOT?
WHAT KIND OF SOUND WAS THAT? WHERE WAS THE CORK?
IT'S MOIST!
GAH!
IT'S FALLING DOWN MY BACK! EEP!
DON'T TELL ME IT WAS IN THE HORSE'S BUTT!

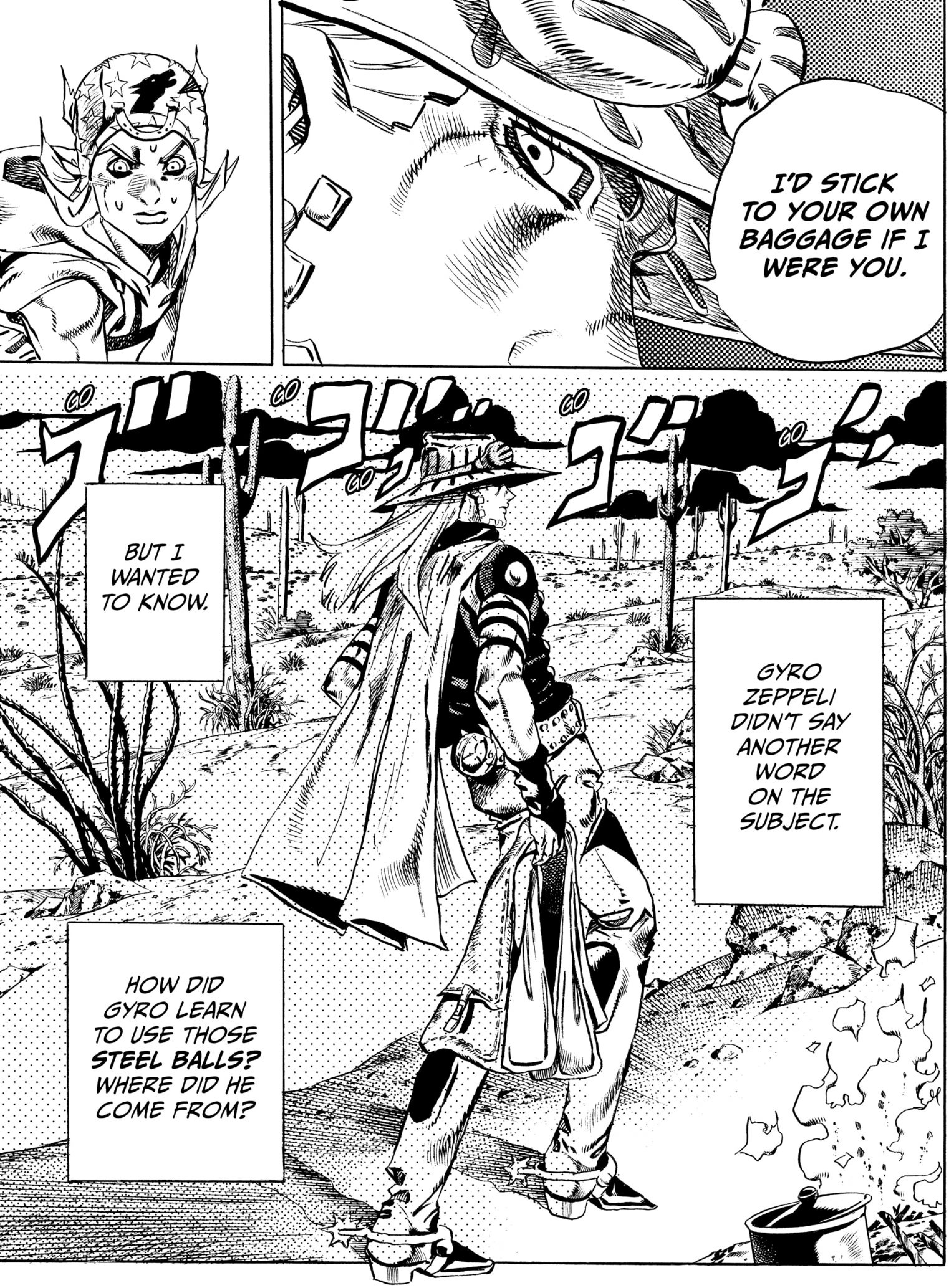

JOHNNY, THERE'S SOMEONE OVER THAT WAY.
...
WELL WHOEVER IT IS, SURELY THEY'RE NOT RIDING THROUGH THE NIGHT...
RIGHT?
COULDN'T IMAGINE.
RIDING AT NIGHT IS JUST BEGGING FOR YOUR HORSE TO GET HURT.
MAYBE HE'S HEADING FOR US.


YOU SAID THAT EVERYONE TAKING THIS ROUTE IS A *WEIRDO.*
IF BY "WEIRDO," YOU MEAN PEOPLE LIKE THAT ROBINSON GUY? THEY CAN'T ALL BE LIKE THAT.
ANY CHANCE YOU BROUGHT A WEAPON WITH YOU, JOHNNY?
YOU SURE?
WE'RE ON THE SHORT LIST TO WIN THIS RACE.
IF YOU BROUGHT A WEAPON, GET IT OUT. IF HE COMES TOO CLOSE, WE'LL CHASE HIM OFF.
RUSTL
RUSTL
UH...W-WELL, JUST IN CASE...
I DID BRING A GUN...BUT I'VE NEVER REALLY FIRED IT BEFORE.
SHF
BOY SENTENCED TO DEATH


DEATH
OF TREASON
EXECUTION SET
FOR DECEMBER
BOY SENTENCED TO DEATH
FOR THE CRIME OF TREASON
EXECUTION SET
FOR DECEMBER
THAT'S GYRO'S BAG...
BOY SENTENCED TO DEATH
FOR THE CRIME OF TREASON
EXECUTION SET
FOR DECEMBER

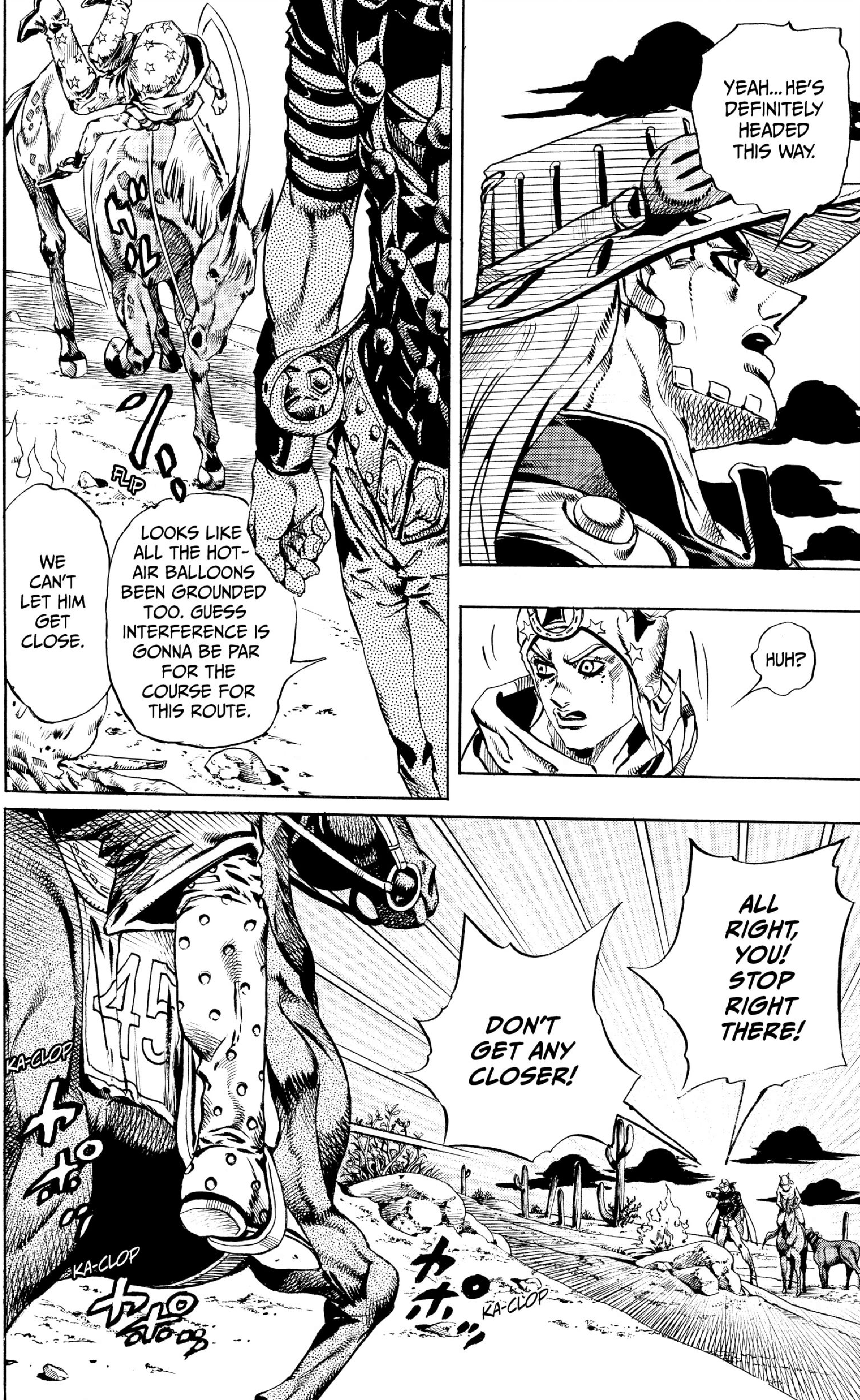

SHF
WHAT IS THAT?
SOME KIND OF CREST?
A DOCUMENT BOX WITH A CREST...
DID HE STEAL THIS? IN EUROPE, YOU NEED THE PERMISSION OF A NOBLE TO BE IN POSSESSION OF SOMETHING MARKED WITH AN EMBLEM LIKE THAT.
MAGISTRATE ZEPPELI OBJECTS TO CHILD'S GUILTY VERDICT.
OBJECTIONS HAVE BEEN DENIED.
$50,000,000 REQUIRED FOR RETRIAL.
DID YOUR MOTHER RAISE YOU TO RIFLE THROUGH OTHER PEOPLE'S STUFF BEHIND THEIR BACKS?
WHAT ...?!
DOOM
WHRL

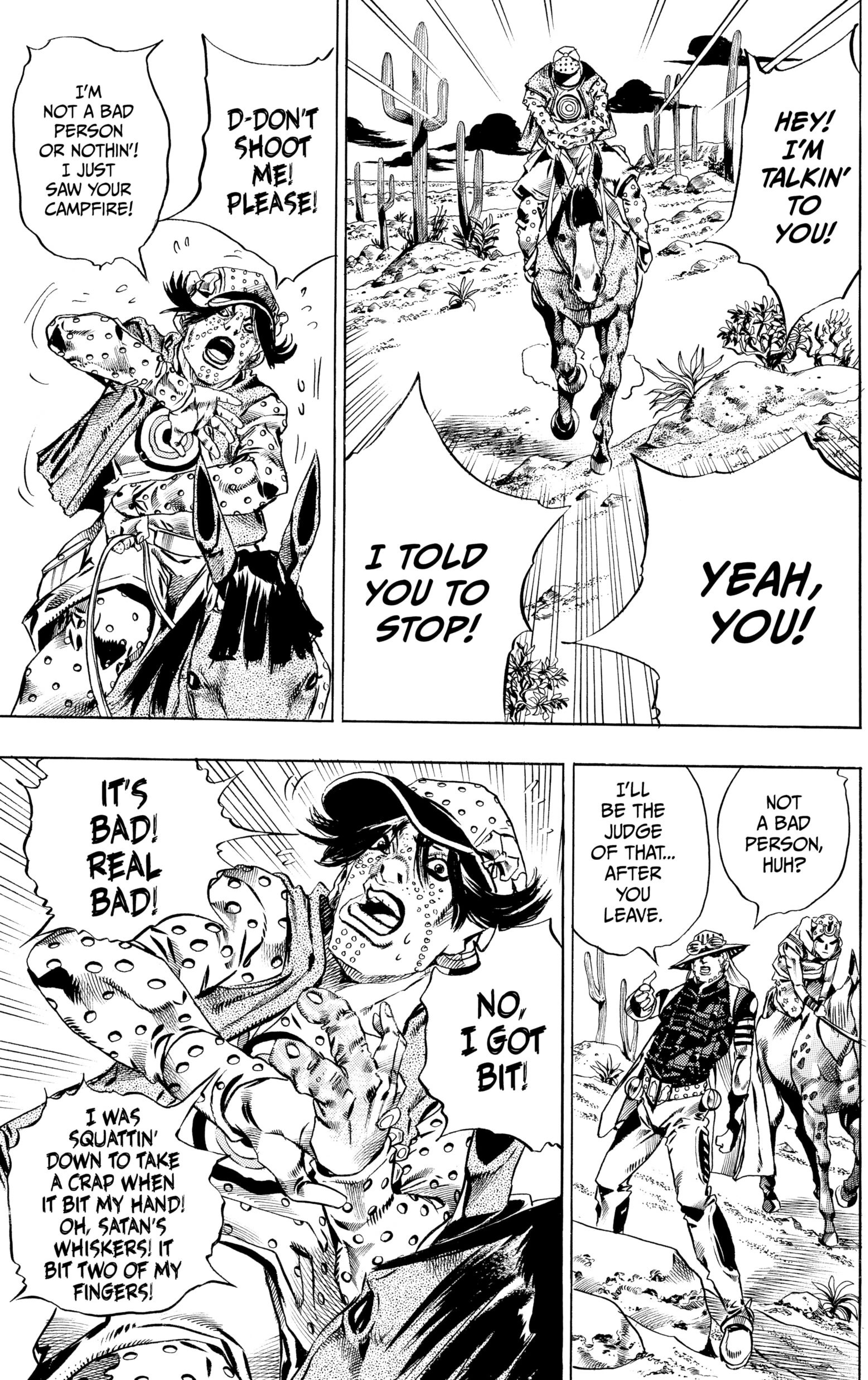

GO
GO
GO
GO
GO
GO
GO
GO
GO
SHF
GO
GO
I-I WASN'T LOOKING THROUGH YOUR THINGS!
BUT...
GO
GO
GO
GO
WHO ARE YOU?
YOU'RE NOT EVEN AMERICAN, ARE YOU?
GO
GO

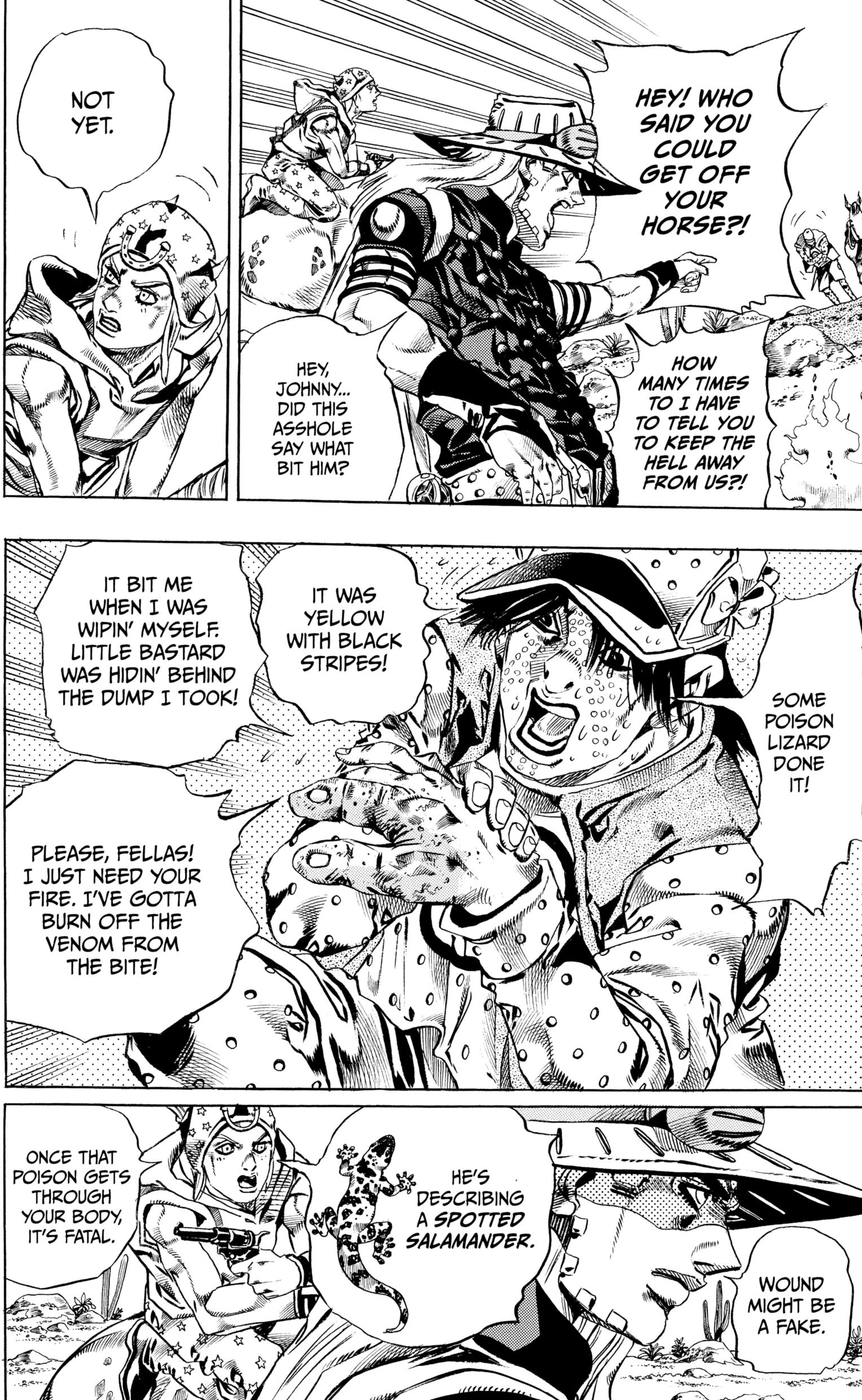

I'D STICK TO YOUR OWN BAGGAGE IF I WERE YOU.
GO
GO
GO
GO
GO
GYRO ZEPPELI DIDN'T SAY ANOTHER WORD ON THE SUBJECT.
BUT I WANTED TO KNOW.
HOW DID GYRO LEARN TO USE THOSE **STEEL BALLS?** WHERE DID HE COME FROM?

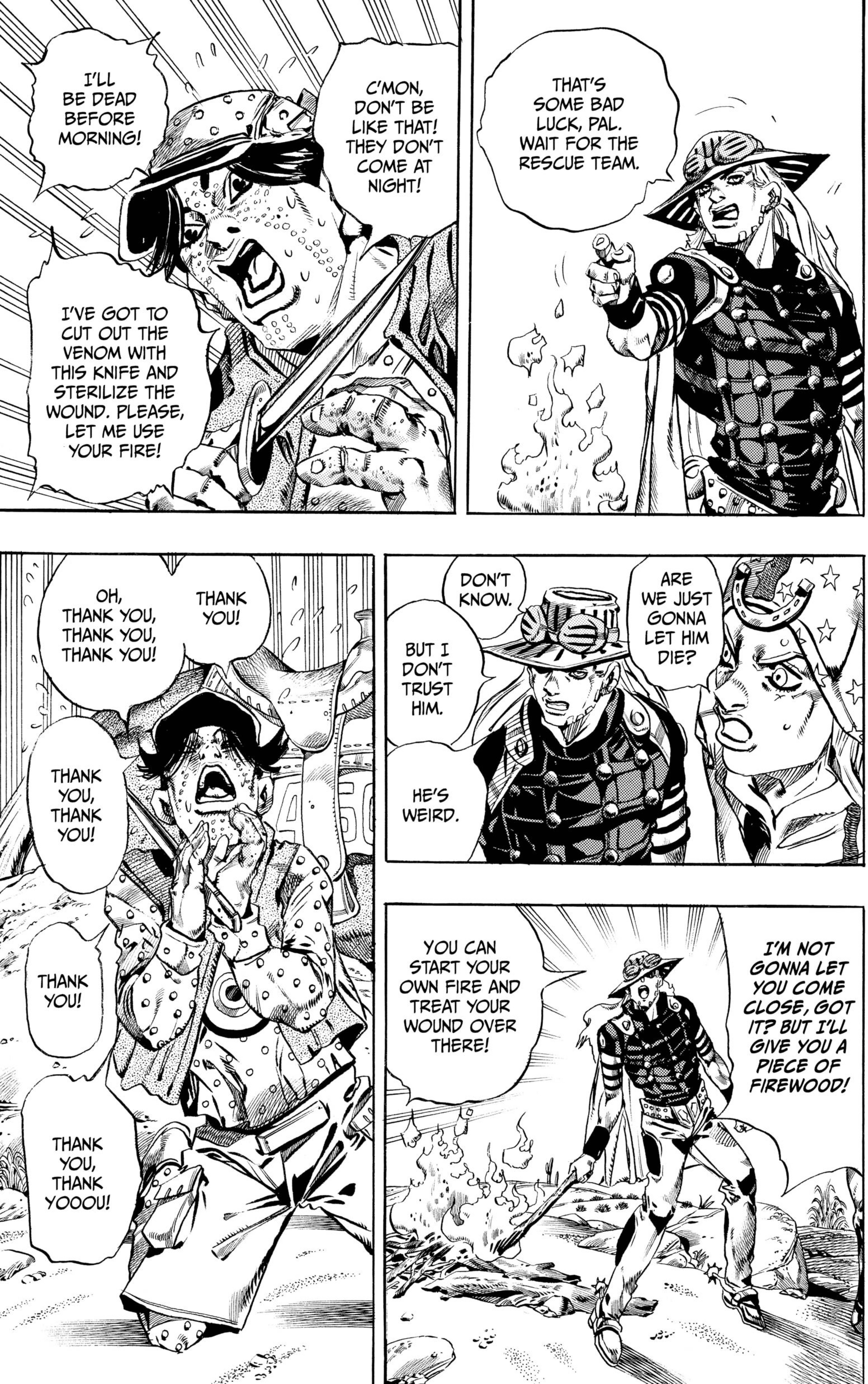
WAS GYRO TRYING TO SAVE THAT BOY? HOW WERE GYRO AND THE BOY CONNECTED? THE PRIZE FOR THE RACE WAS $50 MILLION...

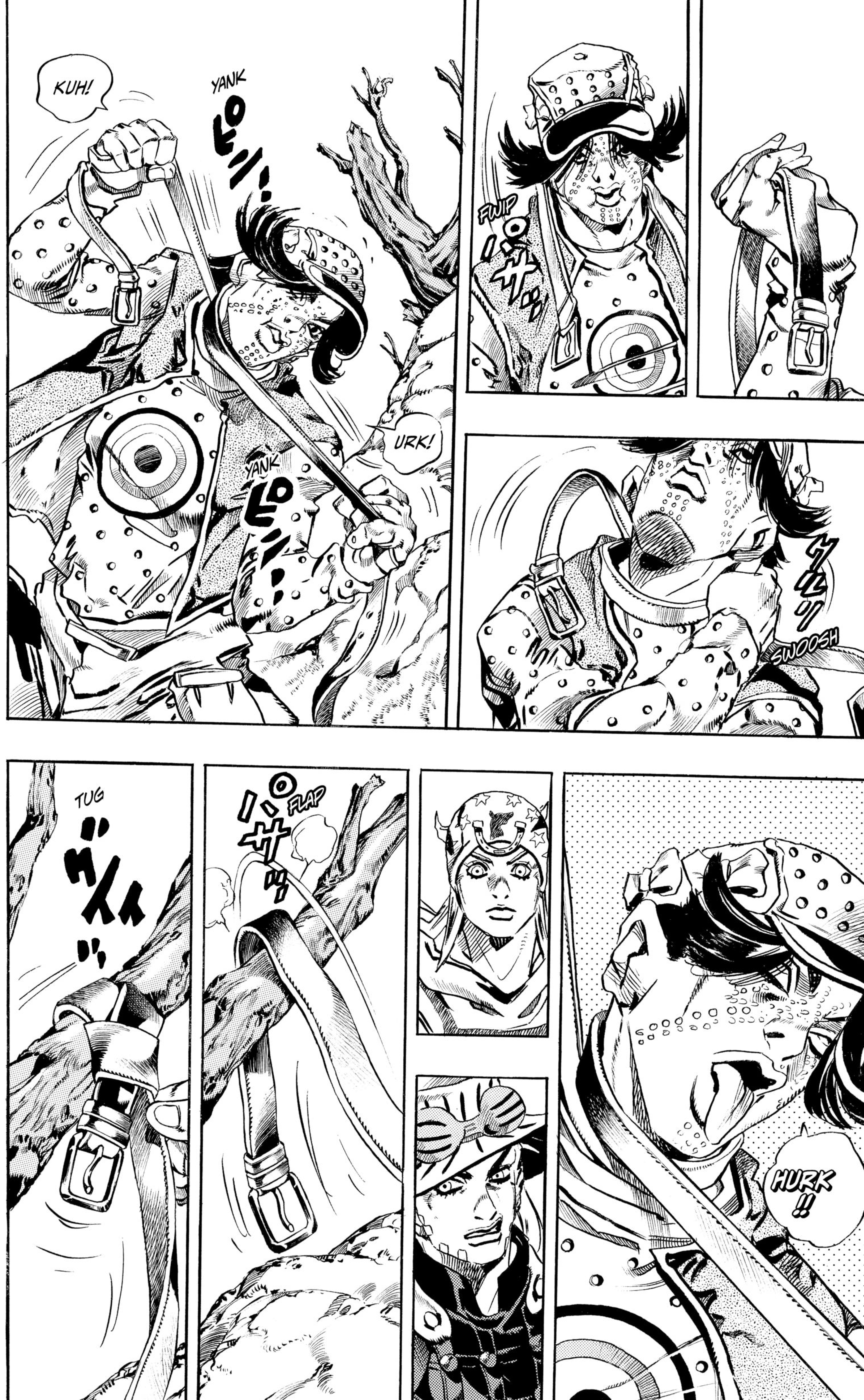
ALL I CAN SAY FOR NOW IS THAT THE DAY WOULD COME WHEN GYRO GAVE ME THE ANSWER TO THOSE QUESTIONS... BUT ONLY WHEN THE RACE PROVED HARDEST FOR HIM.

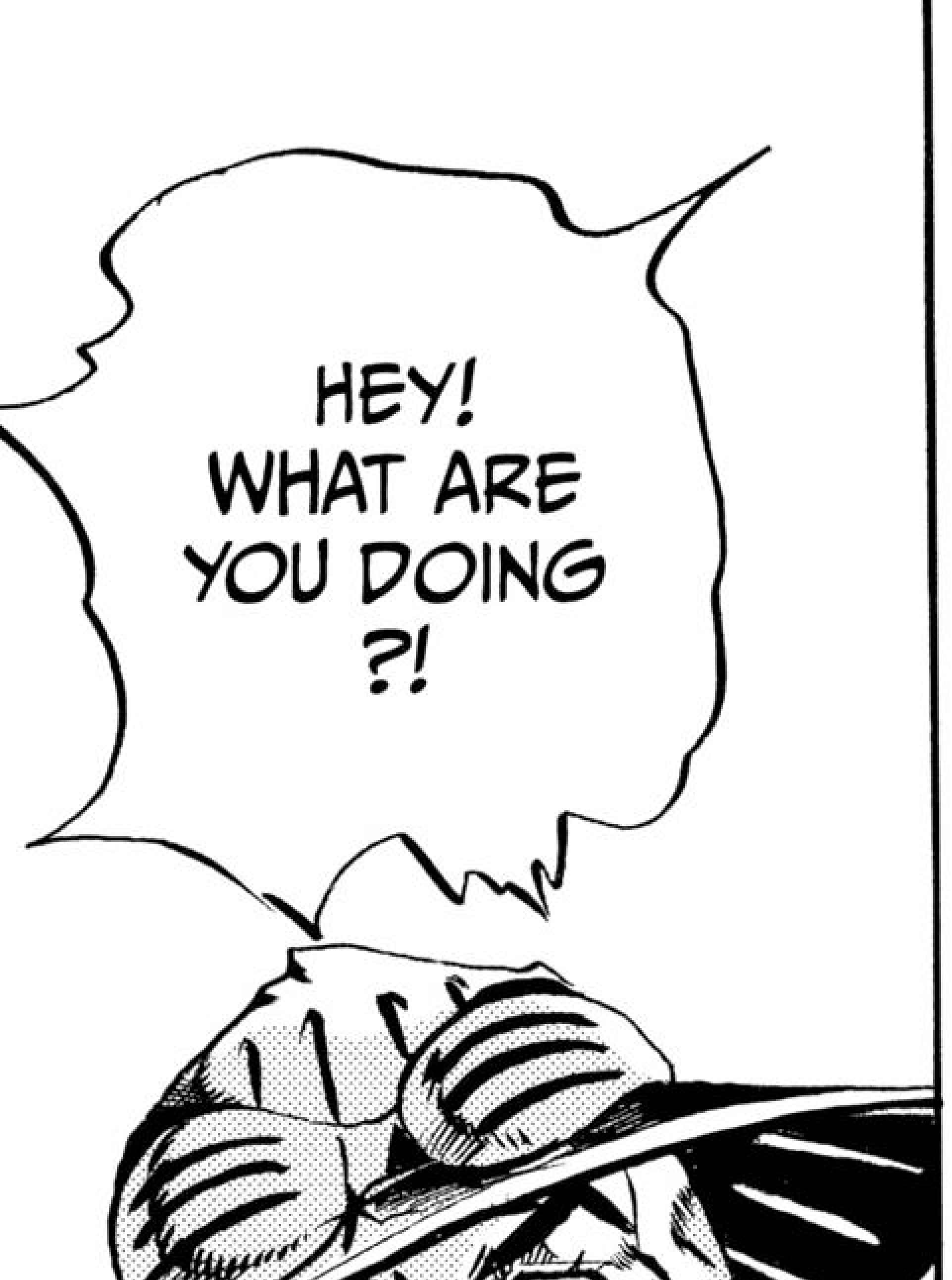

YEAH... HE'S DEFINITELY HEADED THIS WAY.
HUH?
FLIP
LOOKS LIKE ALL THE HOT-AIR BALLOONS BEEN GROUNDED TOO. GUESS INTERFERENCE IS GONNA BE PAR FOR THE COURSE FOR THIS ROUTE.
WE CAN'T LET HIM GET CLOSE.
ALL RIGHT, YOU! STOP RIGHT THERE!
DON'T GET ANY CLOSER!
45
KA-CLOP
KA-CLOP
KA-CLOP

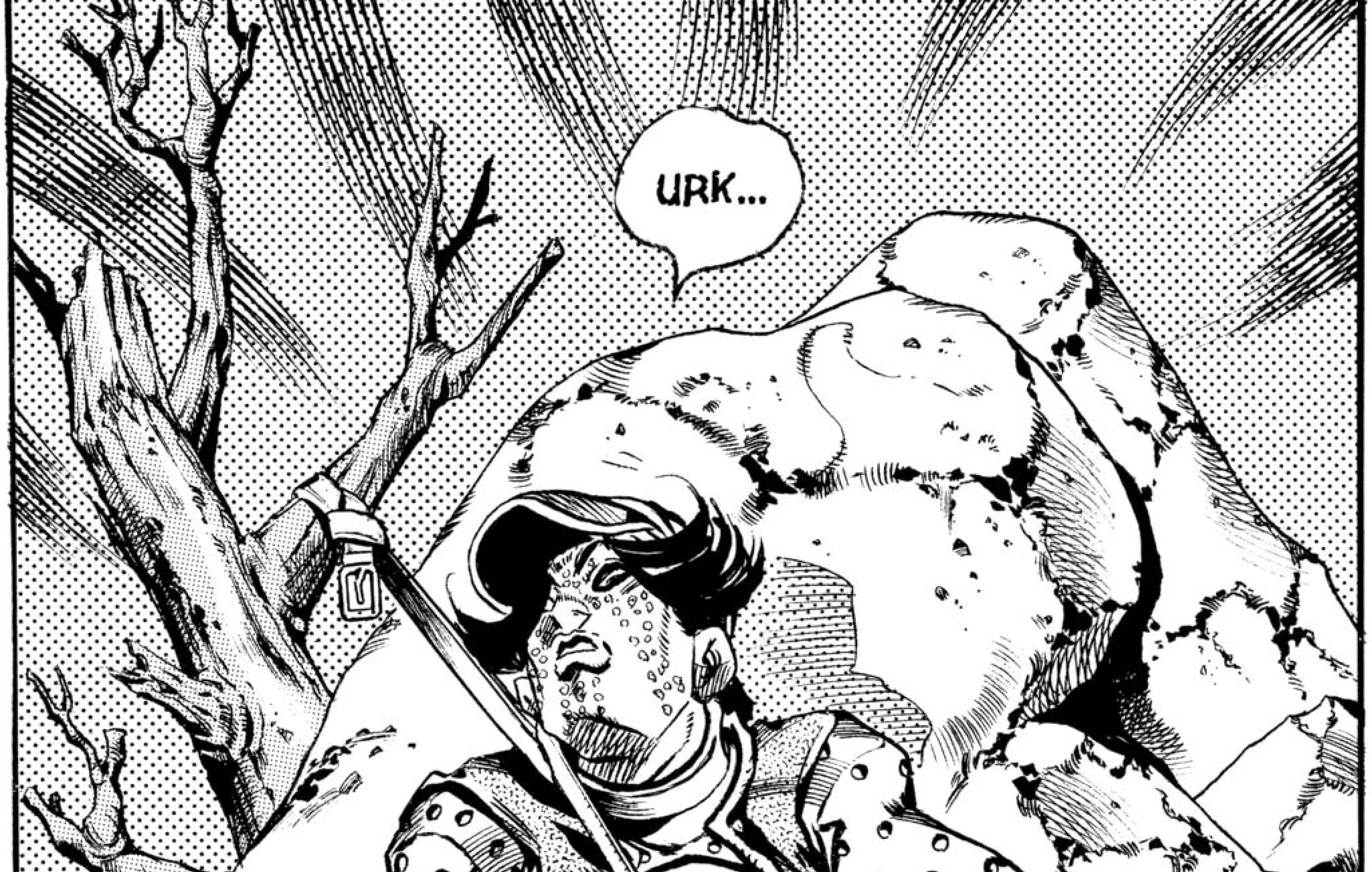

HEY! I'M TALKIN' TO YOU!
YEAH, YOU!
I TOLD YOU TO STOP!
D-DON'T SHOOT ME! PLEASE!
I'M NOT A BAD PERSON OR NOTHIN'! I JUST SAW YOUR CAMPFIRE!
NOT A BAD PERSON, HUH?
I'LL BE THE JUDGE OF THAT... AFTER YOU LEAVE.
IT'S BAD! REAL BAD!
NO, I GOT BIT!
I WAS SQUATTIN' DOWN TO TAKE A CRAP WHEN IT BIT MY HAND! OH, SATAN'S WHISKERS! IT BIT TWO OF MY FINGERS!

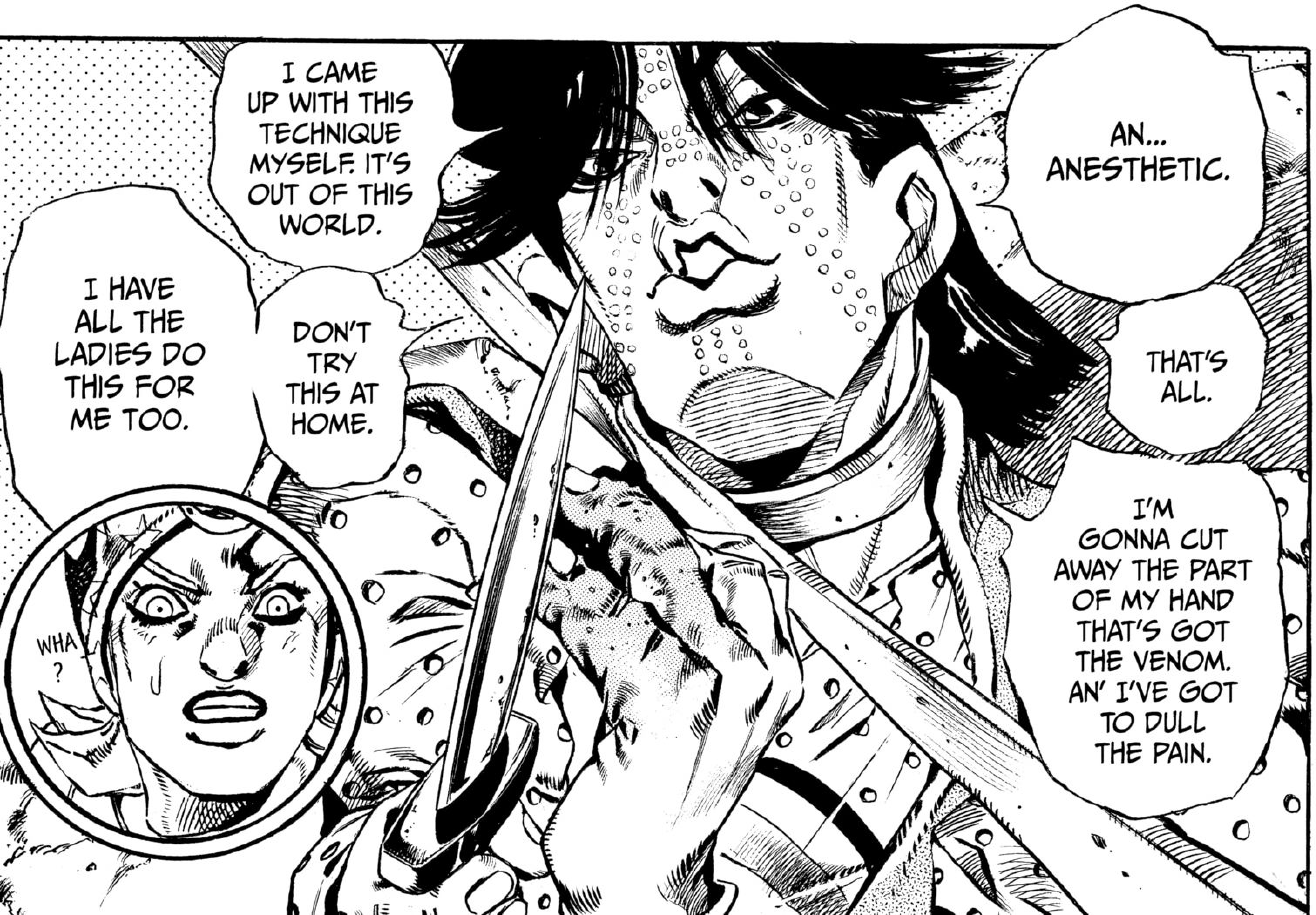

HEY! WHO SAID YOU COULD GET OFF YOUR HORSE?!
HOW MANY TIMES TO I HAVE TO TELL YOU TO KEEP THE HELL AWAY FROM US?!
HEY, JOHNNY... DID THIS ASSHOLE SAY WHAT BIT HIM?
NOT YET.
SOME POISON LIZARD DONE IT!
IT WAS YELLOW WITH BLACK STRIPES!
IT BIT ME WHEN I WAS WIPIN' MYSELF. LITTLE BASTARD WAS HIDIN' BEHIND THE DUMP I TOOK!
PLEASE, FELLAS! I JUST NEED YOUR FIRE. I'VE GOTTA BURN OFF THE VENOM FROM THE BITE!
WOUND MIGHT BE A FAKE.
HE'S DESCRIBING A SPOTTED SALAMANDER.
ONCE THAT POISON GETS THROUGH YOUR BODY, IT'S FATAL.


I'LL BE DEAD BEFORE MORNING!
I'VE GOT TO CUT OUT THE VENOM WITH THIS KNIFE AND STERILIZE THE WOUND. PLEASE, LET ME USE YOUR FIRE!
C'MON, DON'T BE LIKE THAT! THEY DON'T COME AT NIGHT!
THAT'S SOME BAD LUCK, PAL. WAIT FOR THE RESCUE TEAM.
OH, THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!
THANK YOU, THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!
THANK YOU, THANK YOOOU!
ARE WE JUST GONNA LET HIM DIE?
DON'T KNOW.
BUT I DON'T TRUST HIM.
HE'S WEIRD.
I'M NOT GONNA LET YOU COME CLOSE, GOT IT? BUT I'LL GIVE YOU A PIECE OF FIREWOOD!
YOU CAN START YOUR OWN FIRE AND TREAT YOUR WOUND OVER THERE!

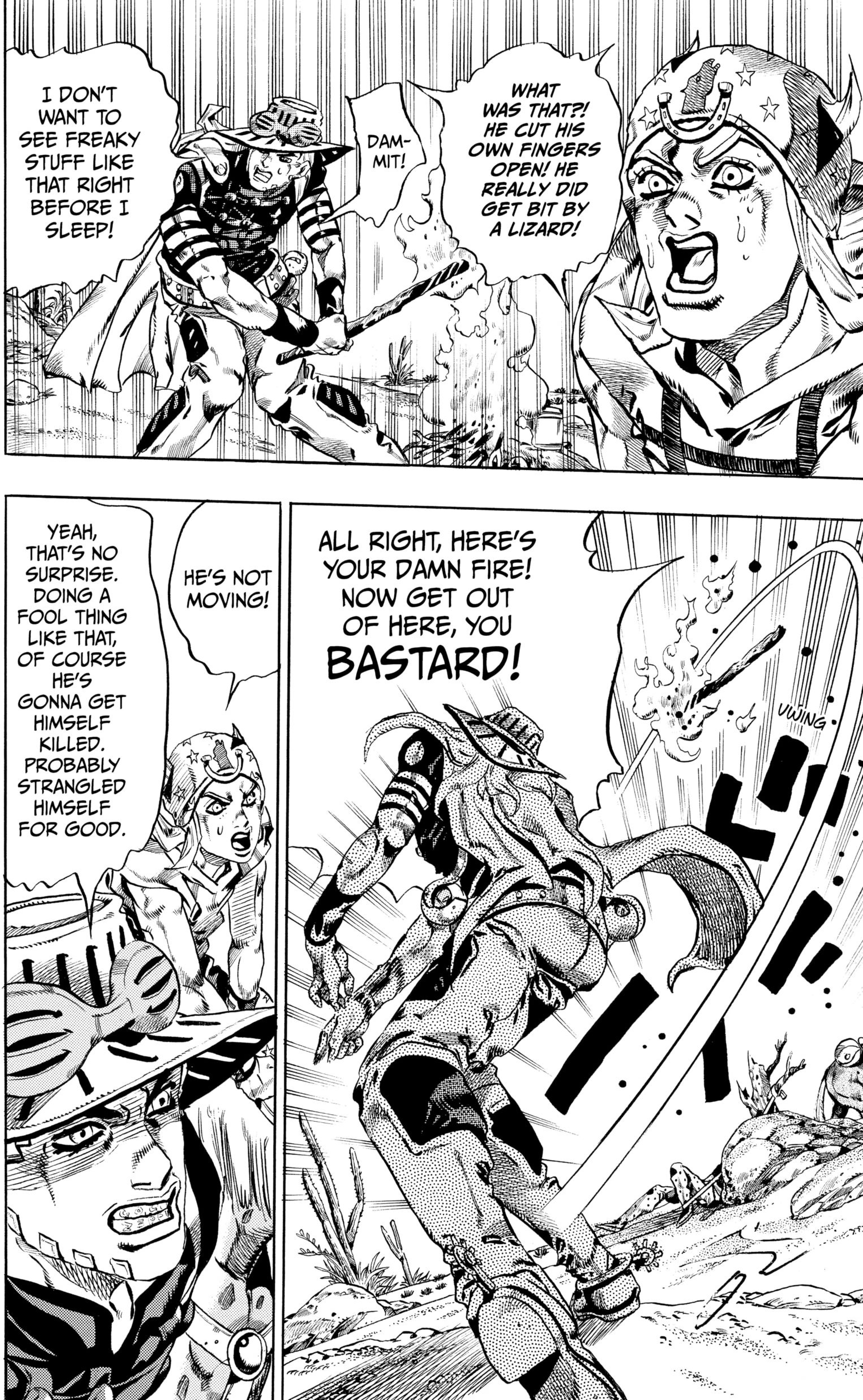

FWIP
パサッ
SWOOSH
シュルッ
KUH!
YANK
ピンッ!!
URK!
YANK
ピンッ!!
HURK
!!
FLAP
パサッ
TUG
グイィッ

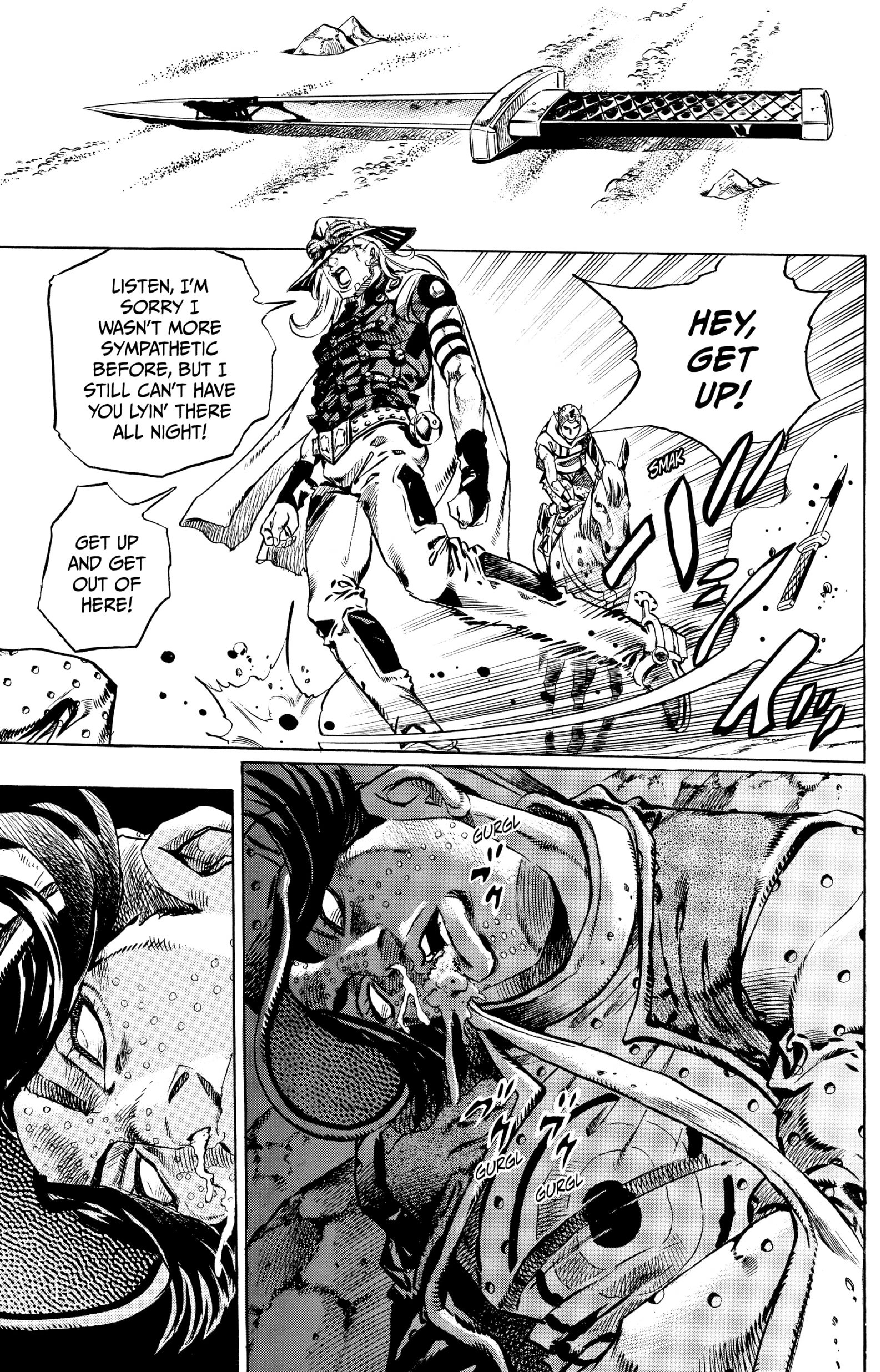

HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING ?!

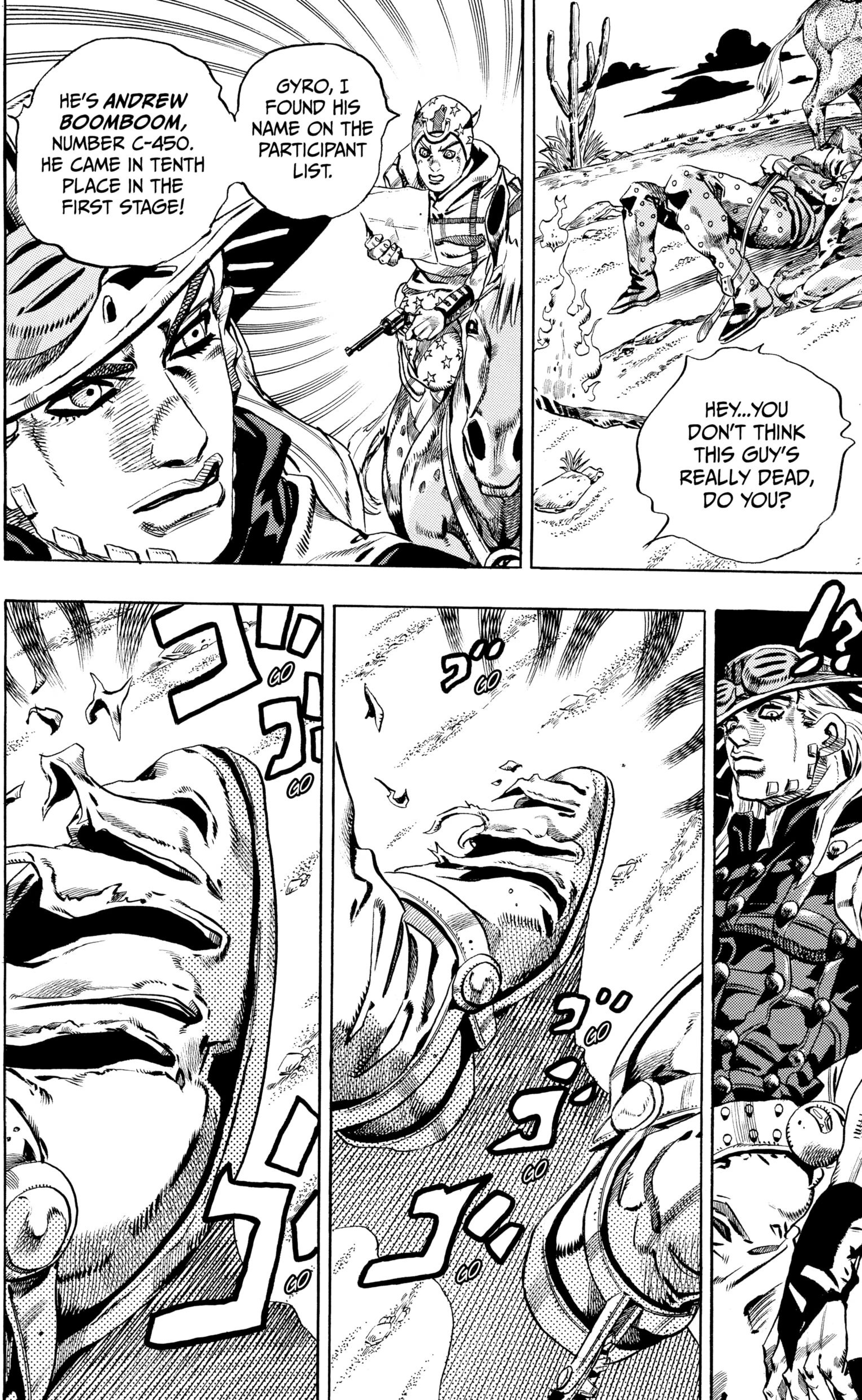

URK...
TUG
NRGH...
TUG

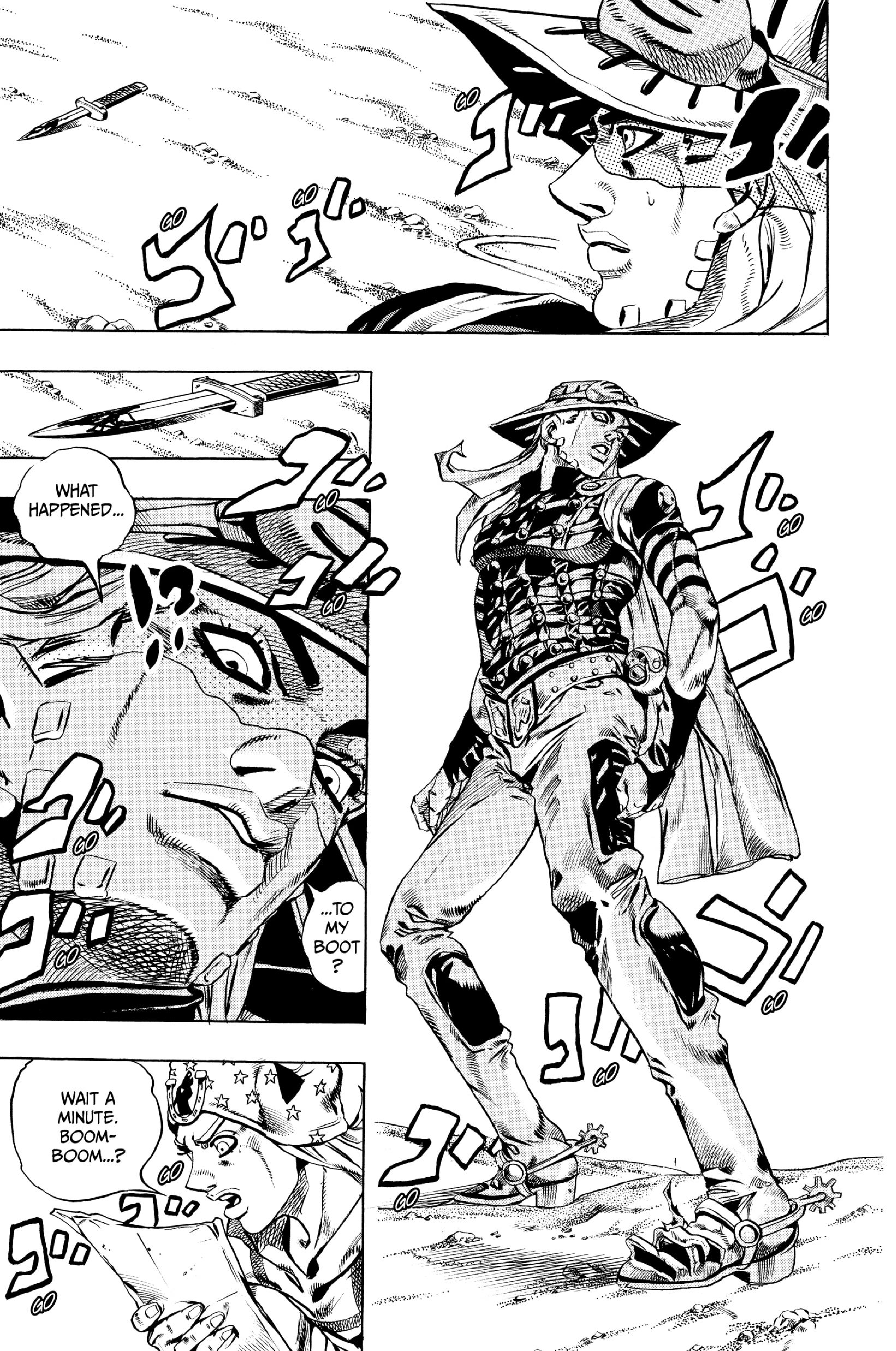

AN... ANESTHETIC.
THAT'S ALL.
I'M GONNA CUT AWAY THE PART OF MY HAND THAT'S GOT THE VENOM. AN' I'VE GOT TO DULL THE PAIN.
I CAME UP WITH THIS TECHNIQUE MYSELF. IT'S OUT OF THIS WORLD.
DON'T TRY THIS AT HOME.
I HAVE ALL THE LADIES DO THIS FOR ME TOO.
WHA ?

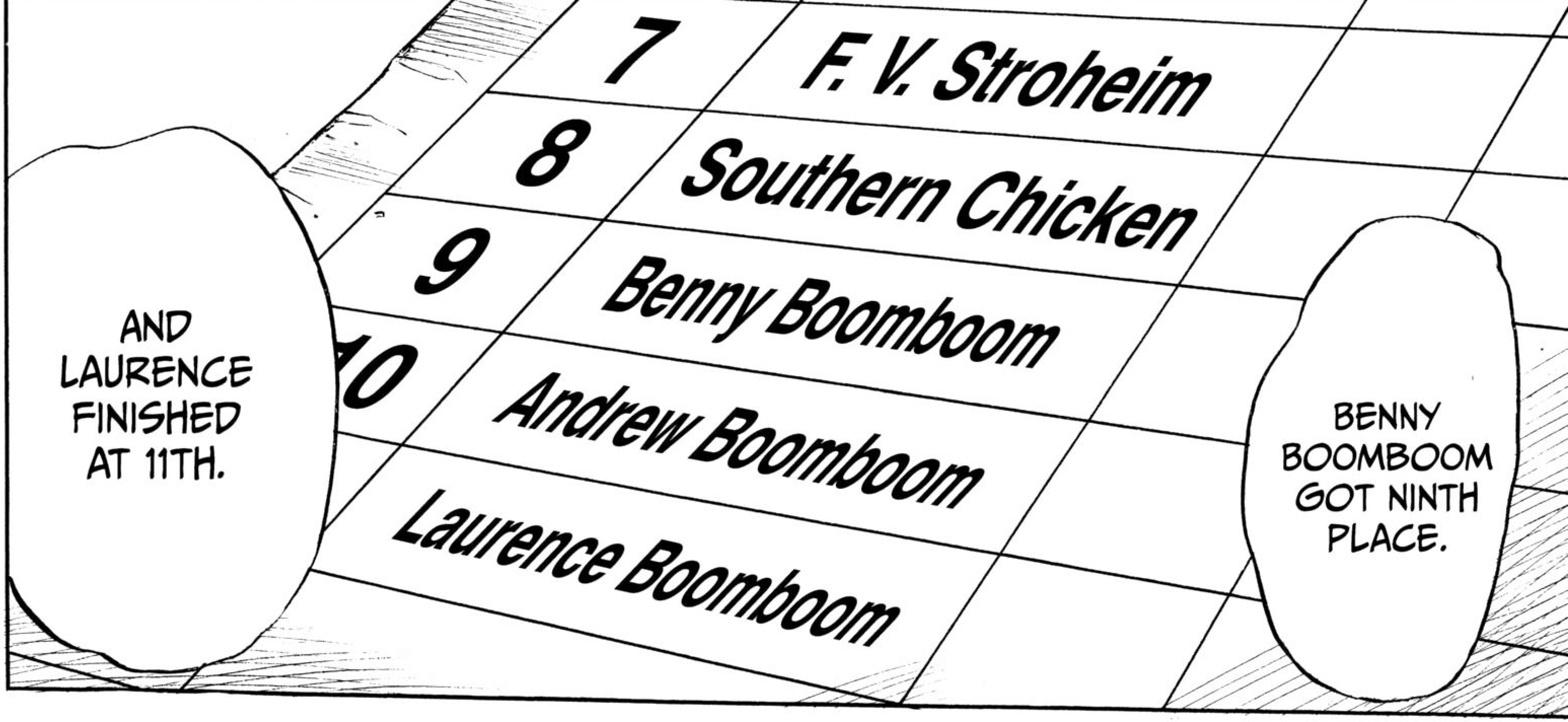
RIGHT ON THE EDGE OF PASSING OUT...THAT'S THE SWEET SPOT!
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS FREAK TALKING ABOUT?
DON'T ASK ME! I DON'T HAVE A CLUE!
DOOM
AAAAAHEEEEEEEEEEEEE!
AAH!
SHUDDR
SHUDDR
SHUDDR
SHUDDR
AIEE EEEE EEE!
JERK
JERK
JERK
JERK
SHUDDR
JERK
BLURK ...!
URK...
GURGH...
TWITCH
TWITCH
TWITCH
OUH...


WHAT WAS THAT?! HE CUT HIS OWN FINGERS OPEN! HE REALLY DID GET BIT BY A LIZARD!
DAM-MIT!
I DON'T WANT TO SEE FREAKY STUFF LIKE THAT RIGHT BEFORE I SLEEP!
ALL RIGHT, HERE'S YOUR DAMN FIRE! NOW GET OUT OF HERE, YOU **BASTARD!**
VWING
HE'S NOT MOVING!
YEAH, THAT'S NO SURPRISE. DOING A FOOL THING LIKE THAT, OF COURSE HE'S GONNA GET HIMSELF KILLED. PROBABLY STRANGLED HIMSELF FOR GOOD.


HEY, GET UP!
SMAK
LISTEN, I'M SORRY I WASN'T MORE SYMPATHETIC BEFORE, BUT I STILL CAN'T HAVE YOU LYIN' THERE ALL NIGHT!
GET UP AND GET OUT OF HERE!
GURGL
GURGL
GURGL

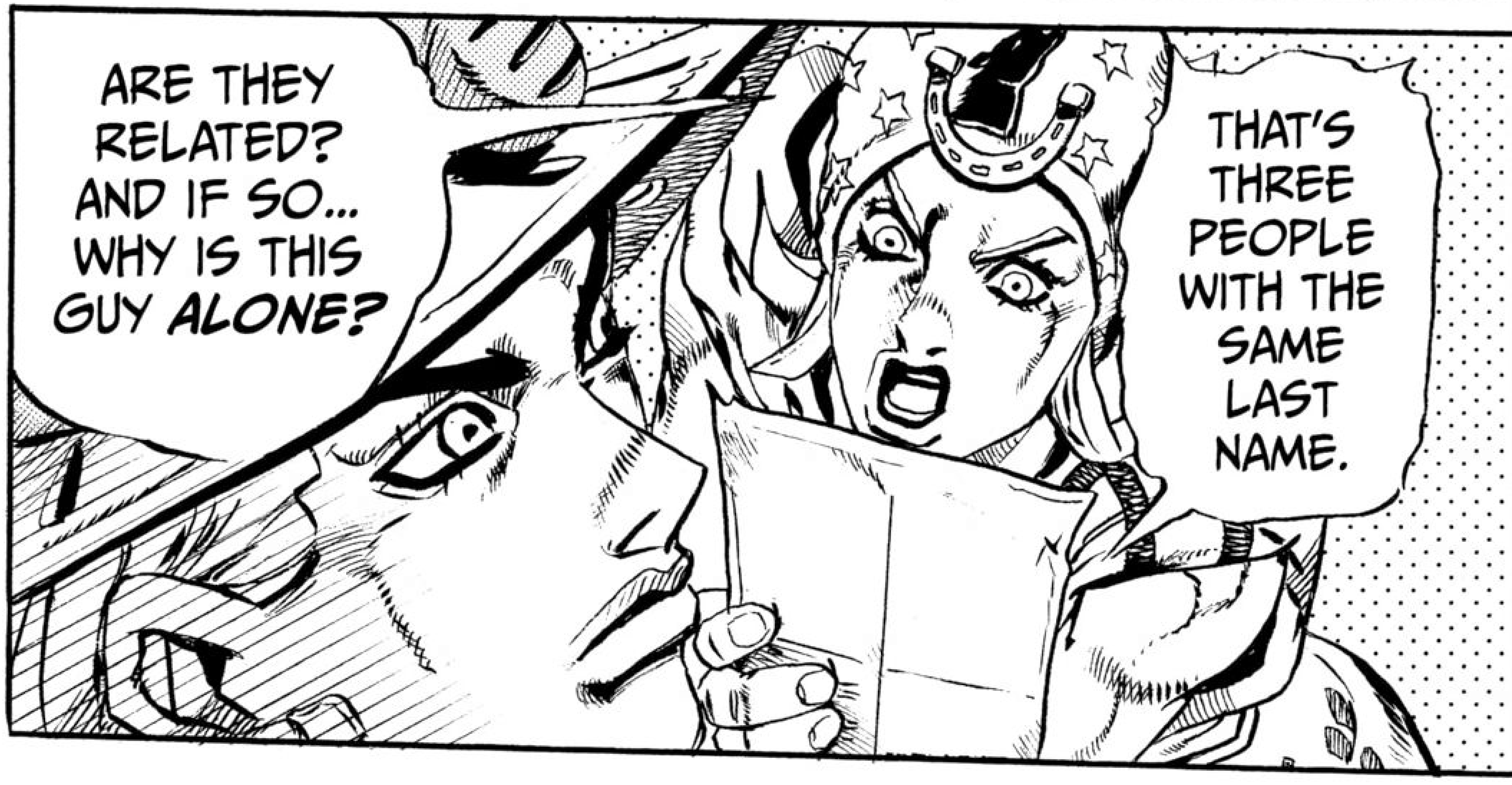

HEY...YOU DON'T THINK THIS GUY'S REALLY DEAD, DO YOU?
GYRO, I FOUND HIS NAME ON THE PARTICIPANT LIST.
HE'S *ANDREW BOOMBOOM*, NUMBER C-450. HE CAME IN TENTH PLACE IN THE FIRST STAGE!
!?
GO
GO
GO
GO
GO
GO
GO
GO

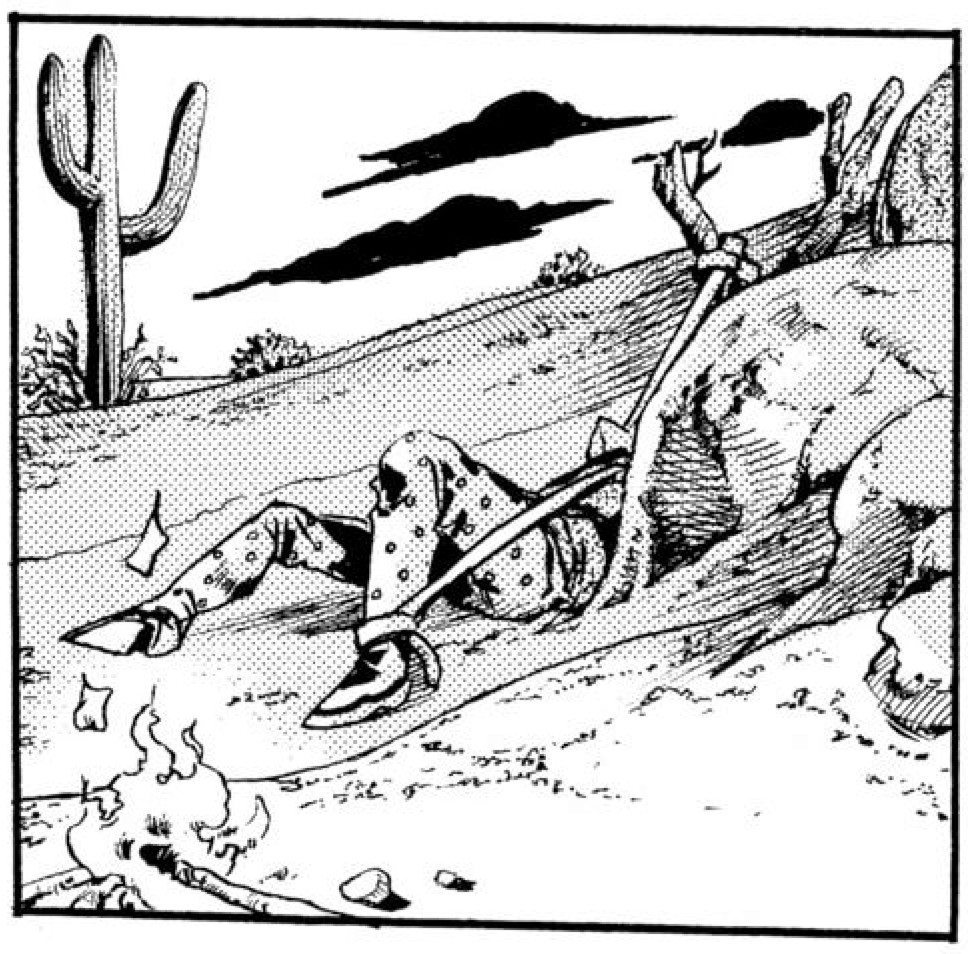

GO GO GO
WHAT HAPPENED...
...TO MY BOOT?
GO GO GO
WAIT A MINUTE. BOOM-BOOM...?
GO GO

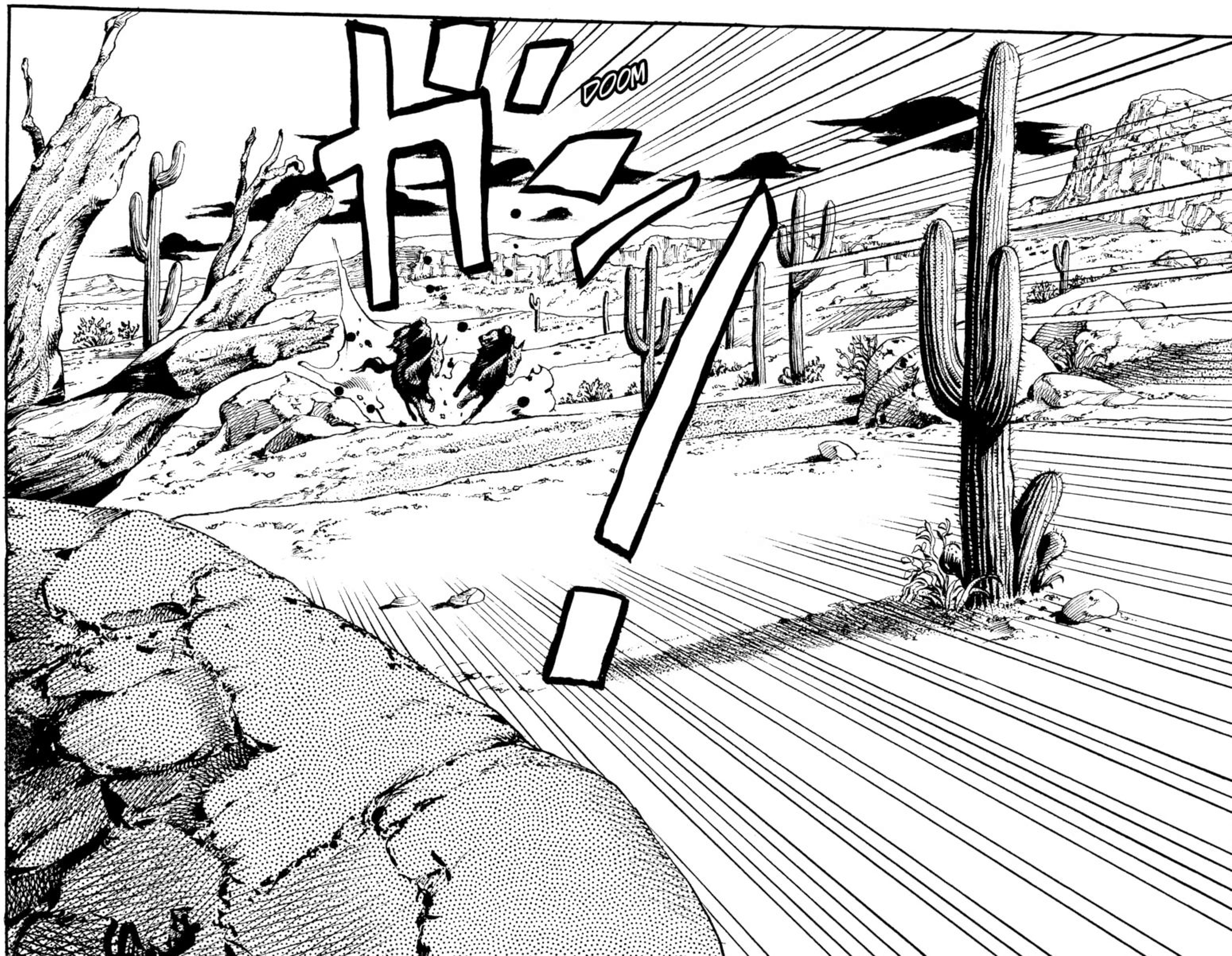


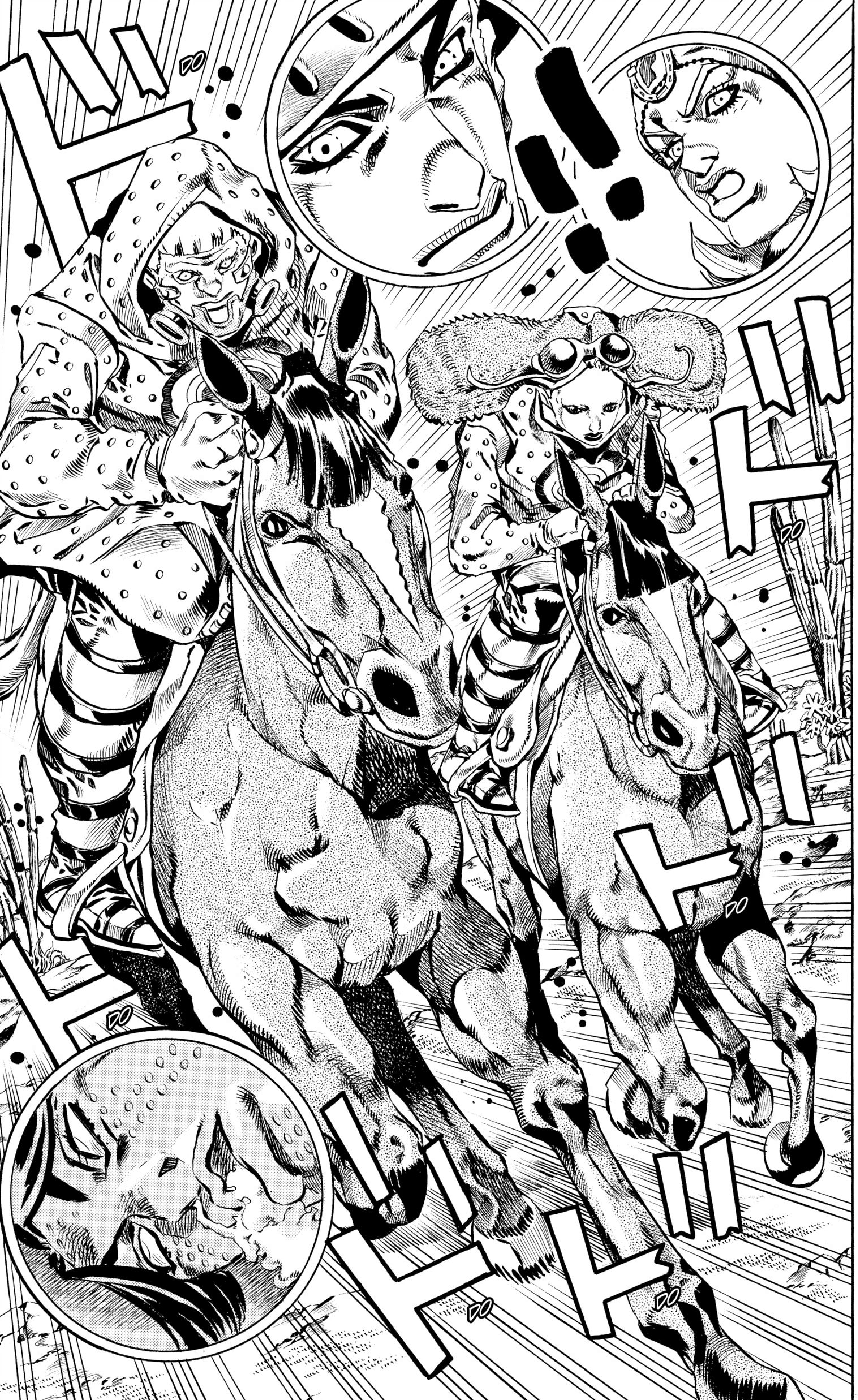
7	F. V. Stroheim
8	Southern Chicken
9	Benny Boomboom
10	Andrew Boomboom
	Laurence Boomboom

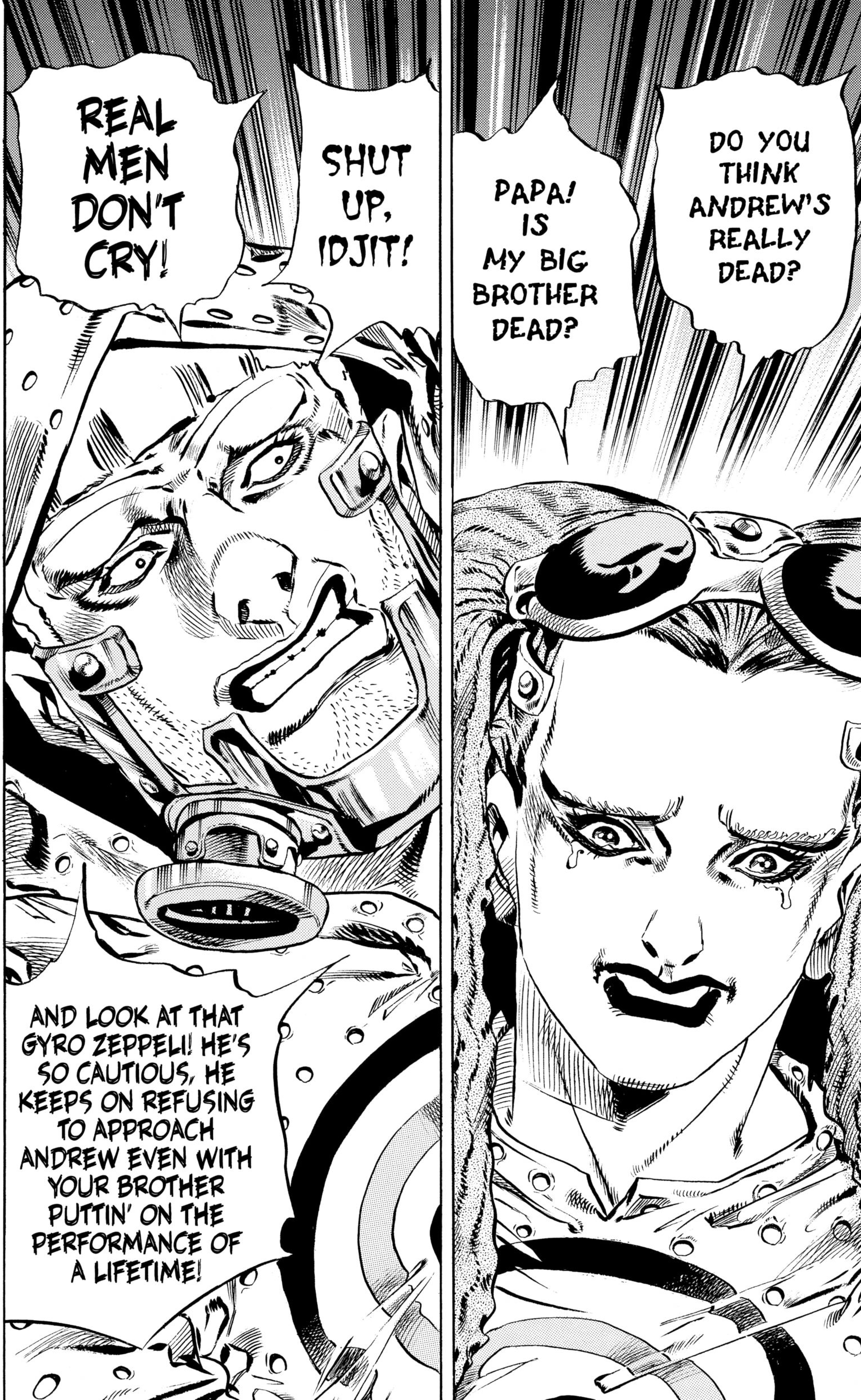
BENNY BOOMBOOM GOT NINTH PLACE.
AND LAURENCE FINISHED AT 11TH.

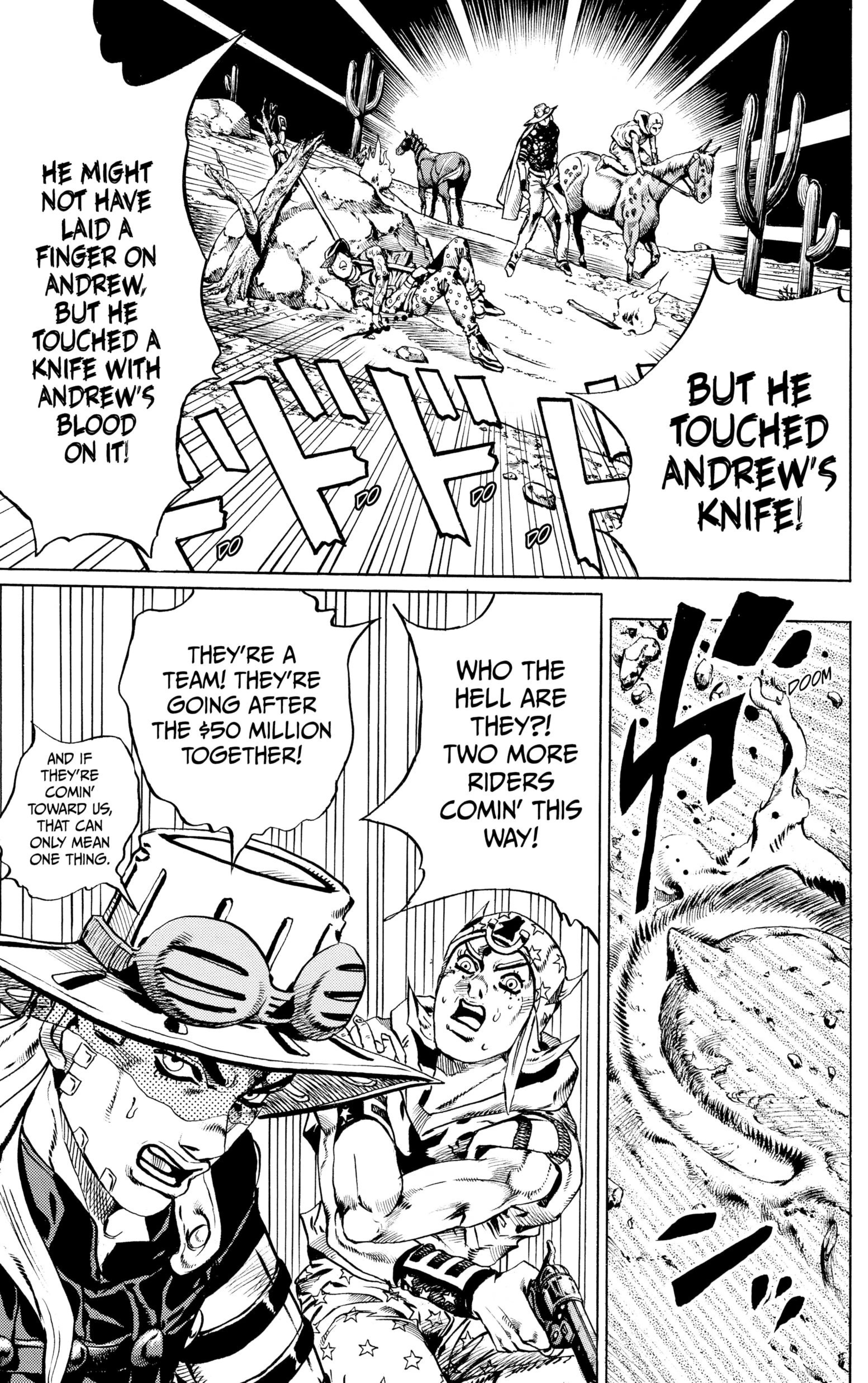

THAT'S THREE PEOPLE WITH THE SAME LAST NAME.
ARE THEY RELATED? AND IF SO... WHY IS THIS GUY *ALONE?*






!!
ドド
DO
ドドド
DO
ドドド
DO
ドド
DO
ドドド
DO
DO

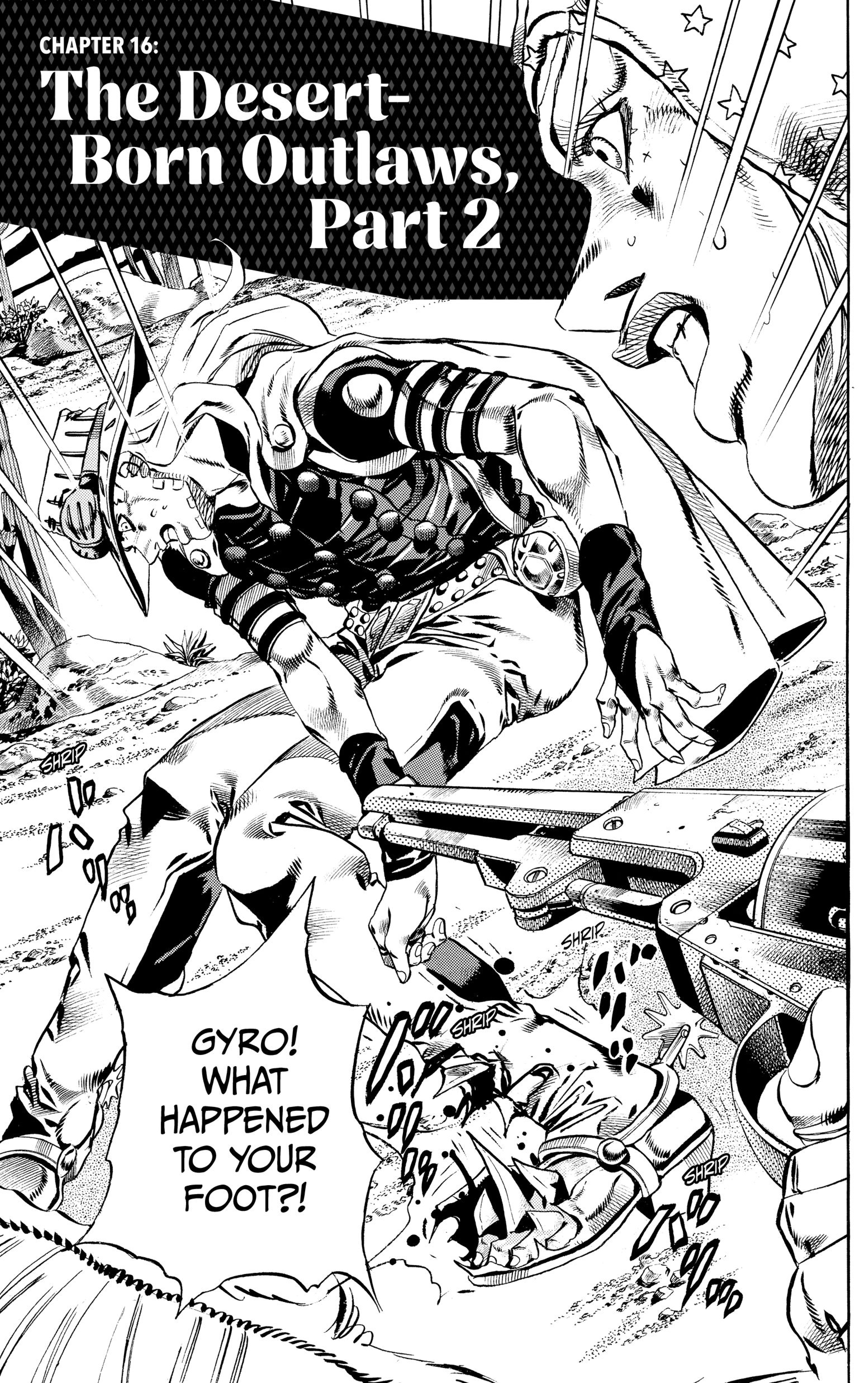

DO YOU THINK ANDREW'S REALLY DEAD?
PAPA! IS MY BIG BROTHER DEAD?
SHUT UP, IDJIT!
REAL MEN DON'T CRY!
AND LOOK AT THAT GYRO ZEPPELI! HE'S SO CAUTIOUS, HE KEEPS ON REFUSING TO APPROACH ANDREW EVEN WITH YOUR BROTHER PUTTIN' ON THE PERFORMANCE OF A LIFETIME!


BUT HE TOUCHED ANDREW'S KNIFE!
HE MIGHT NOT HAVE LAID A FINGER ON ANDREW, BUT HE TOUCHED A KNIFE WITH ANDREW'S BLOOD ON IT!
ドドドド
DO DO DO DO
ドン
DOOM
WHO THE HELL ARE THEY?! TWO MORE RIDERS COMIN' THIS WAY!
THEY'RE A TEAM! THEY'RE GOING AFTER THE $50 MILLION TOGETHER!
AND IF THEY'RE COMIN' TOWARD US, THAT CAN ONLY MEAN ONE THING.

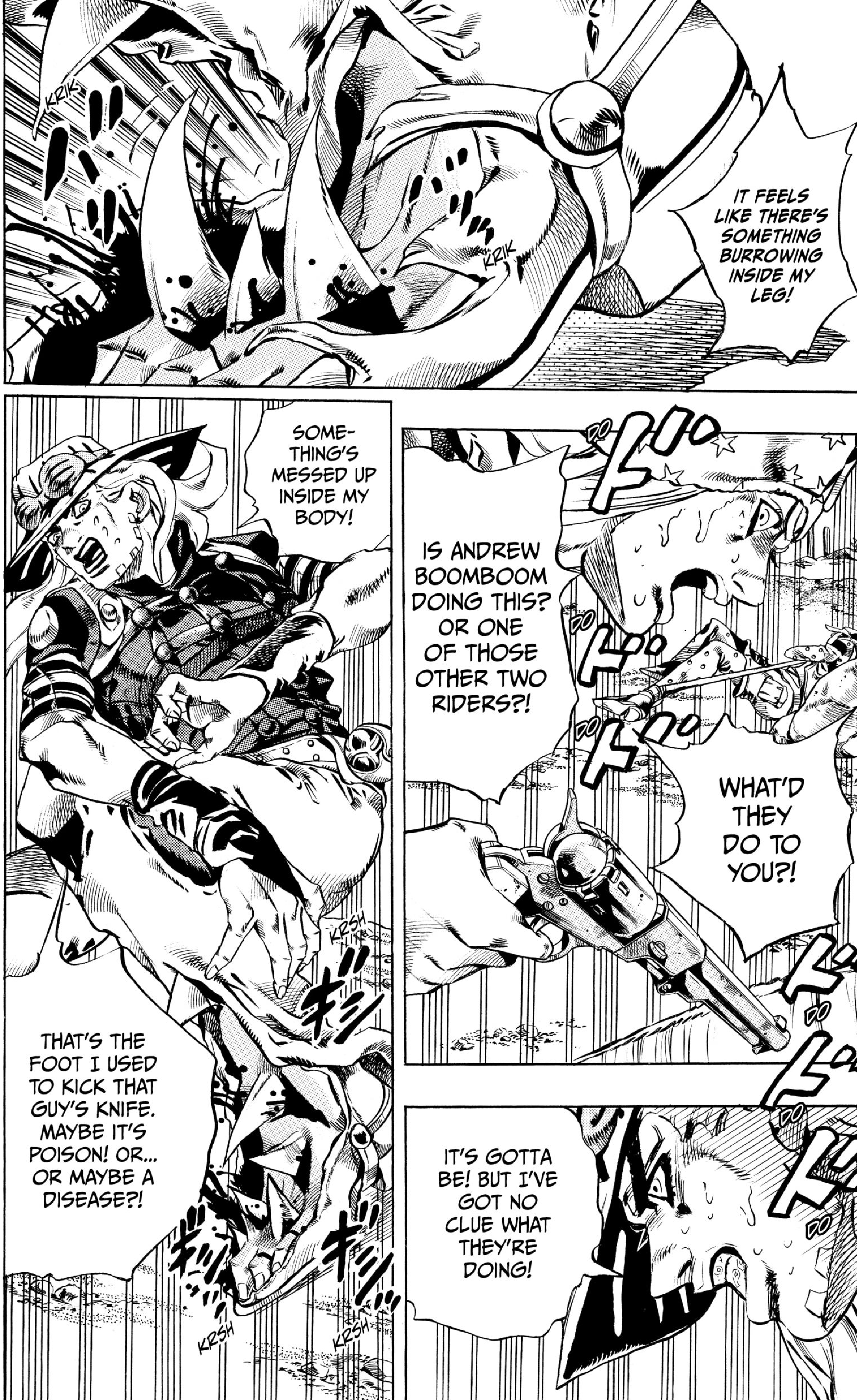
JOHNNY! SHOOT THE ONE ON THE RIGHT!
I'LL GET THE ONE ON THE LEFT!
SKRAK
?
SHRIP
SHRIP
SHRIP
WHA ...?!
WHAT ?!
MY FOOT...!

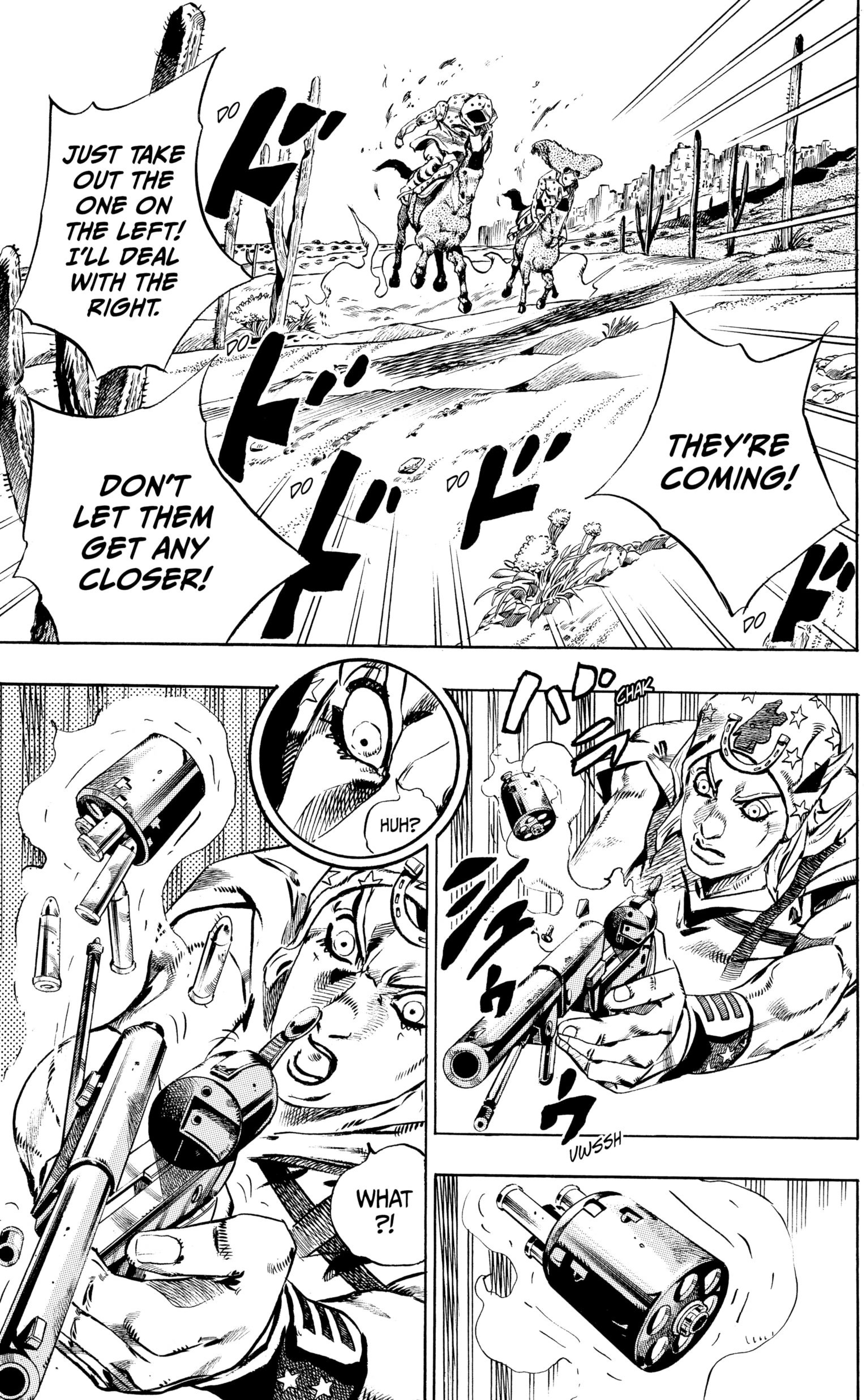
CHAPTER 16:

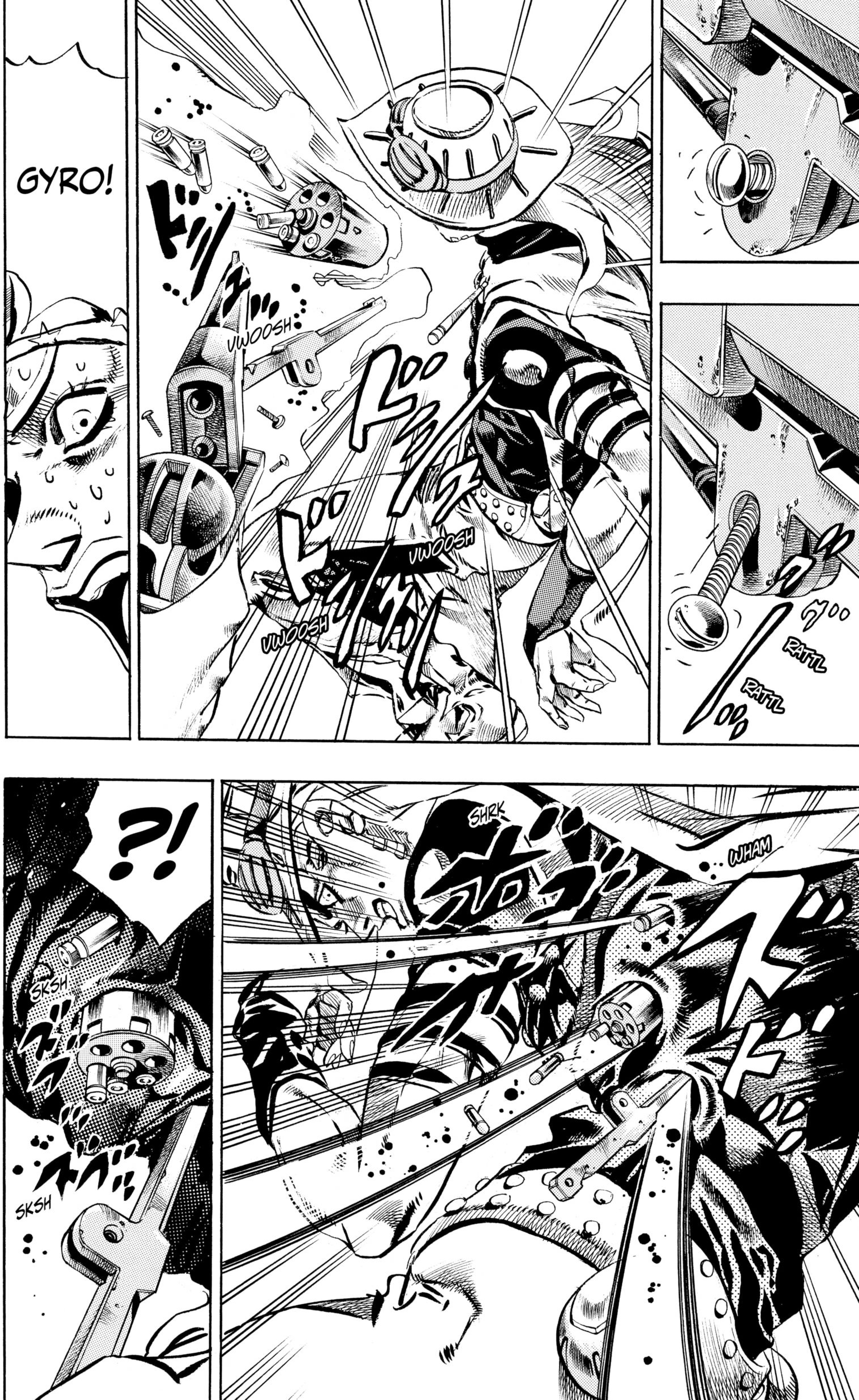
The Desert-Born Outlaws, Part 2

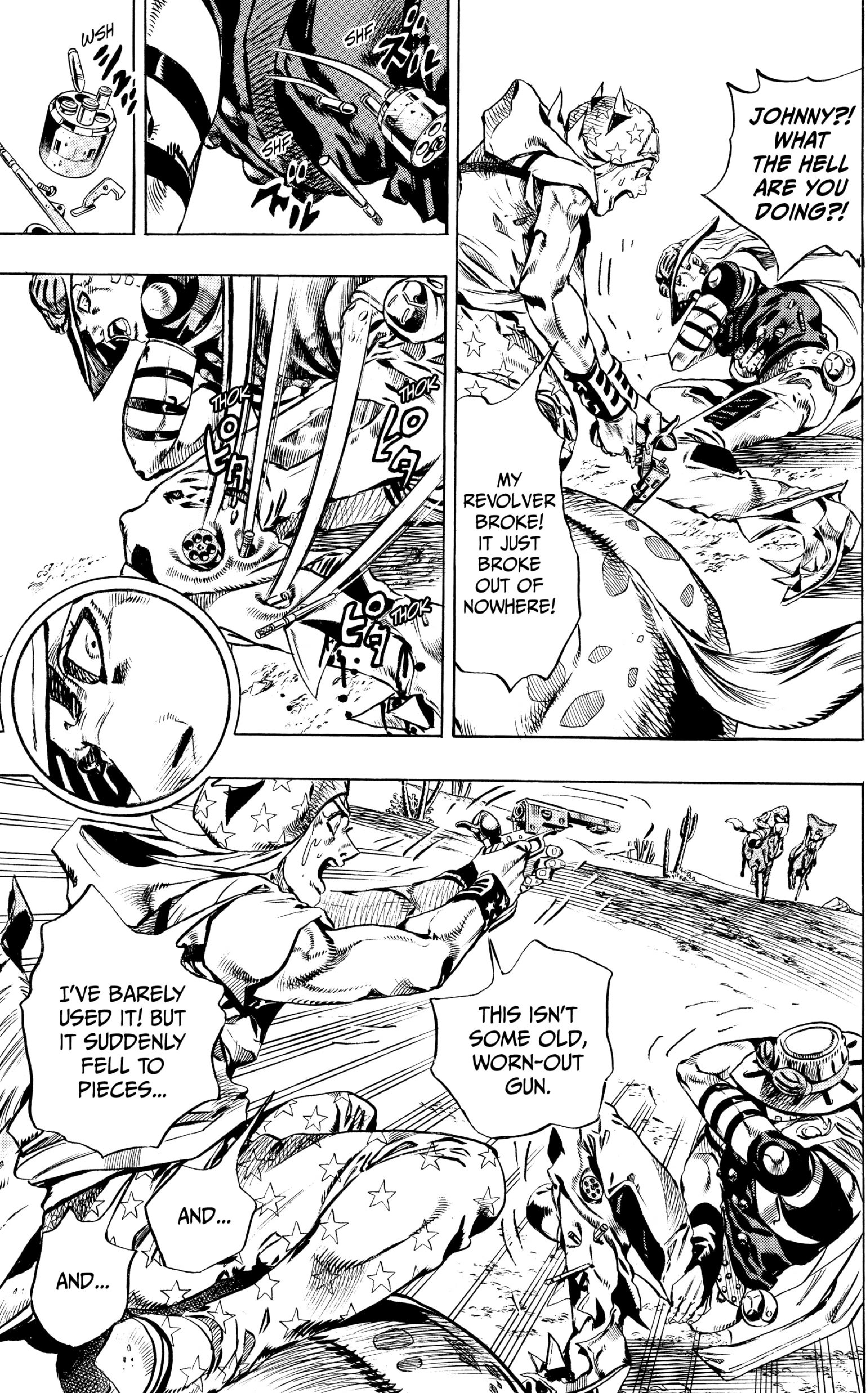

SHRIP
SHRIP
SHRIP
SHRIP
GYRO! WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FOOT?!

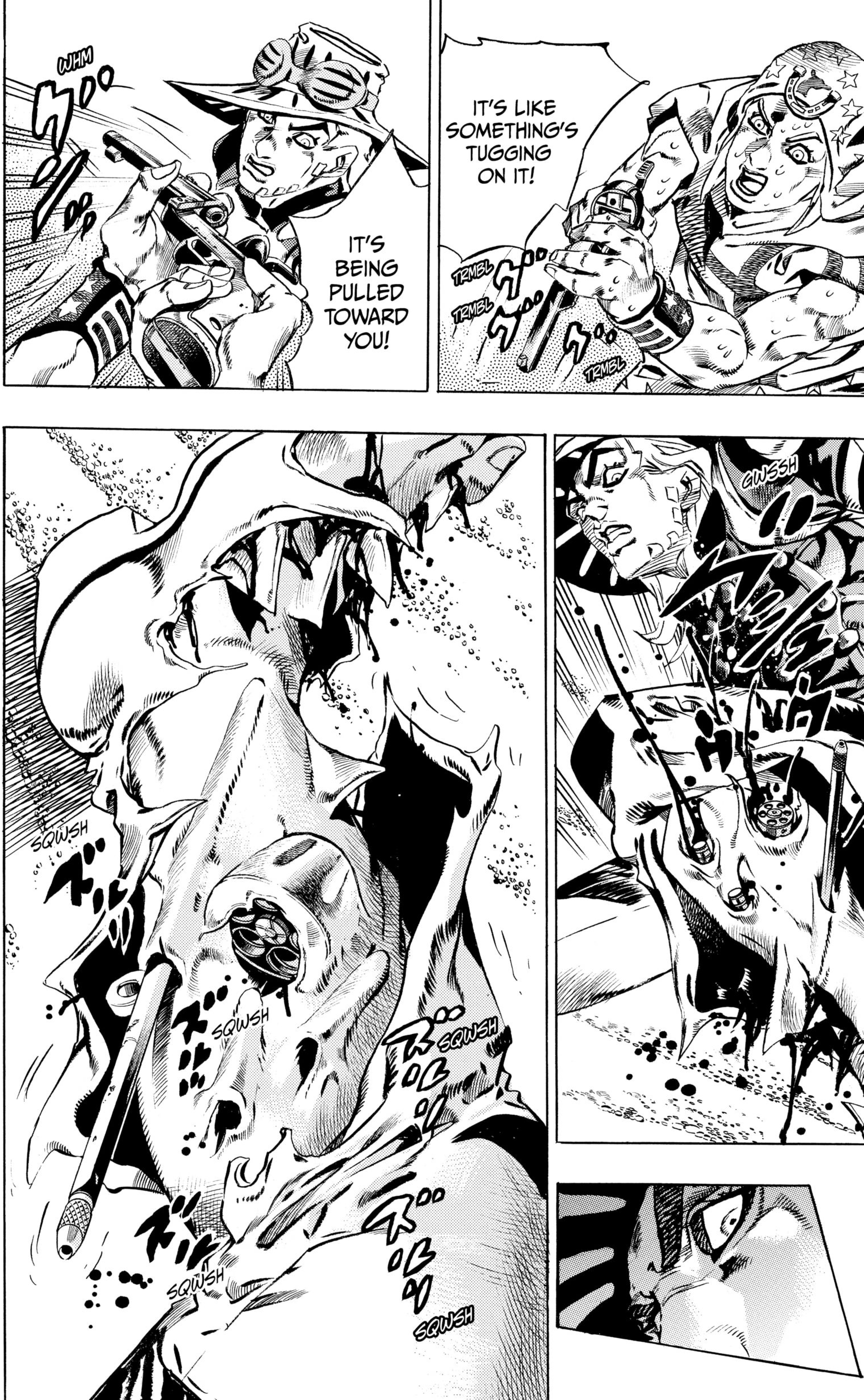
ドド DO DO
ドド DO DO
ドド DO DO
ドド DO DO
ドド DO
ドド DO DO
ドド DO DO
ズ CWOO
GYRO?! WHAT'S GOIN' ON? WHY DOES YOUR FOOT LOOK LIKE THAT?!
I DON'T KNOW!
THE SKIN ON MY FOOT IS HARDENING LIKE STEEL.
CRAP... HURTS LIKE HELL, TOO.
AND NOW IT'S GOIN' UP MY LEG!
ギシ GRSH
ギシ GRSH
ギシ GRSH
ギシ GRSH

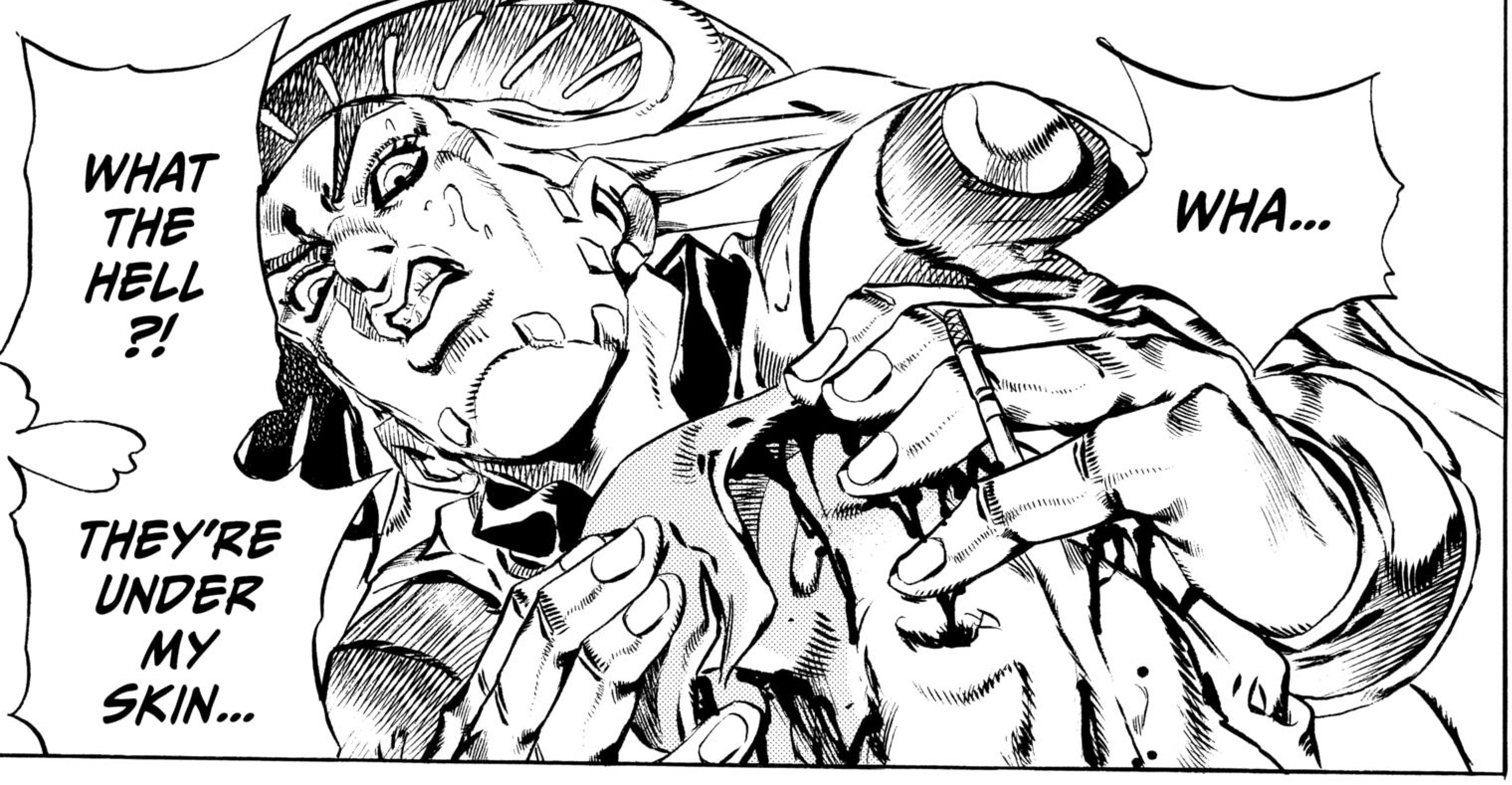

KRIK
KRIK
IT FEELS LIKE THERE'S SOMETHING BURROWING INSIDE MY LEG!
DO
DO
DO
IS ANDREW BOOMBOOM DOING THIS? OR ONE OF THOSE OTHER TWO RIDERS?!
WHAT'D THEY DO TO YOU?!
SOMETHING'S MESSED UP INSIDE MY BODY!
KRSH
THAT'S THE FOOT I USED TO KICK THAT GUY'S KNIFE. MAYBE IT'S POISON! OR... OR MAYBE A DISEASE?!
KRSH
KRSH
DO
DO
DO
IT'S GOTTA BE! BUT I'VE GOT NO CLUE WHAT THEY'RE DOING!

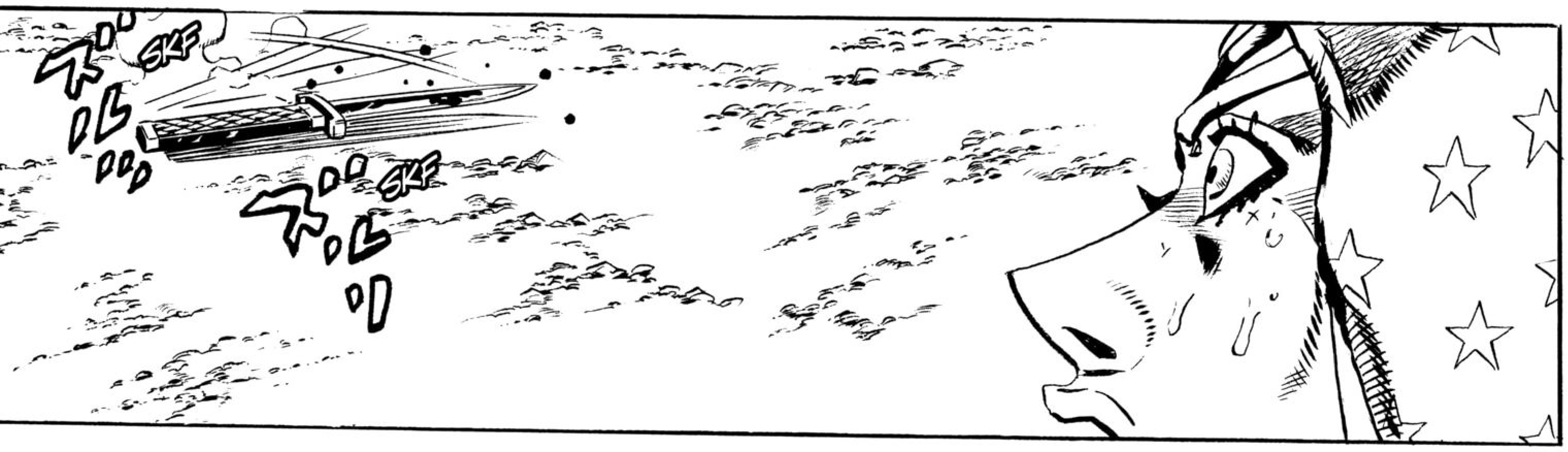
THEY'RE COMING!
JUST TAKE OUT THE ONE ON THE LEFT! I'LL DEAL WITH THE RIGHT.
DON'T LET THEM GET ANY CLOSER!
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO
CHAK
VWSSH
HUH?
WHAT?!

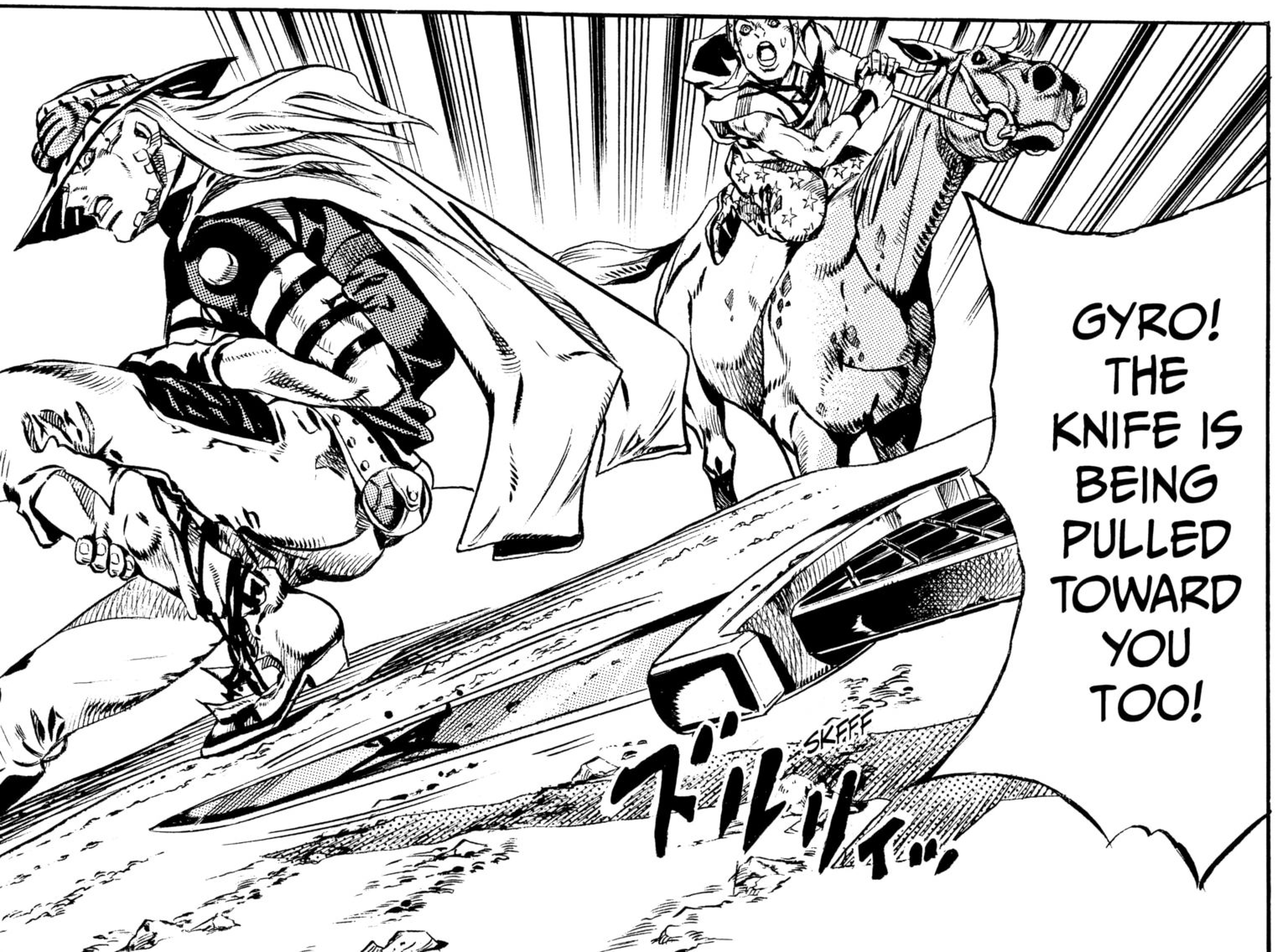

RATTL
RATTL
VWOOSH
VWOOSH
VWOOSH
GYRO!
SHRK
WHAM
?!
SKSH
SKSH


JOHNNY?! WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!
MY REVOLVER BROKE! IT JUST BROKE OUT OF NOWHERE!
SHF
SHF
WSH
THOK
THOK
THOK
THIS ISN'T SOME OLD, WORN-OUT GUN.
I'VE BARELY USED IT! BUT IT SUDDENLY FELL TO PIECES...
AND...
AND...

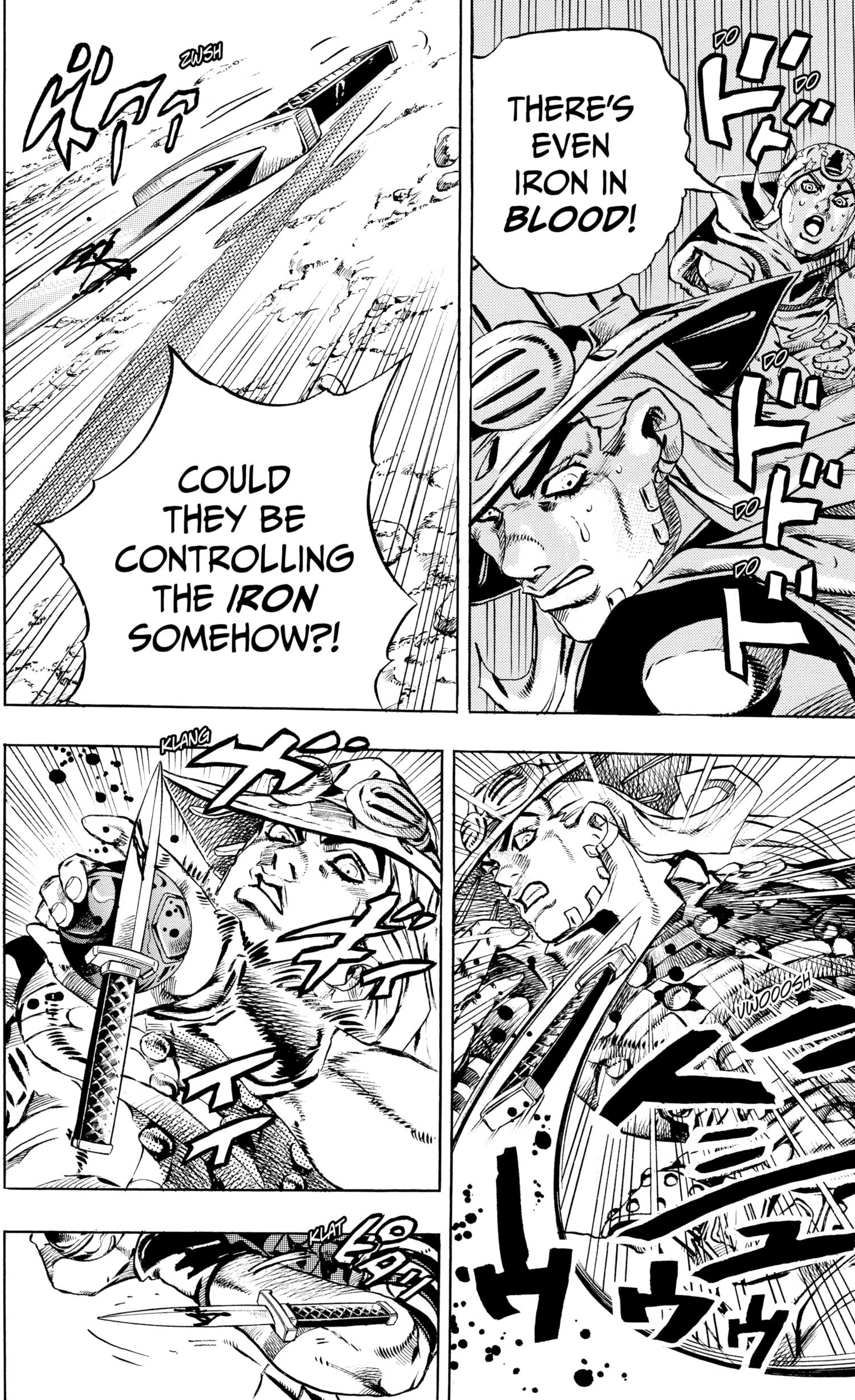

IT'S LIKE SOMETHING'S TUGGING ON IT!
TRMBL
TRMBL
TRMBL
WHM
IT'S BEING PULLED TOWARD YOU!
GWSSH
SQWSH
SQWSH
SQWSH
SQWSH
SQWSH

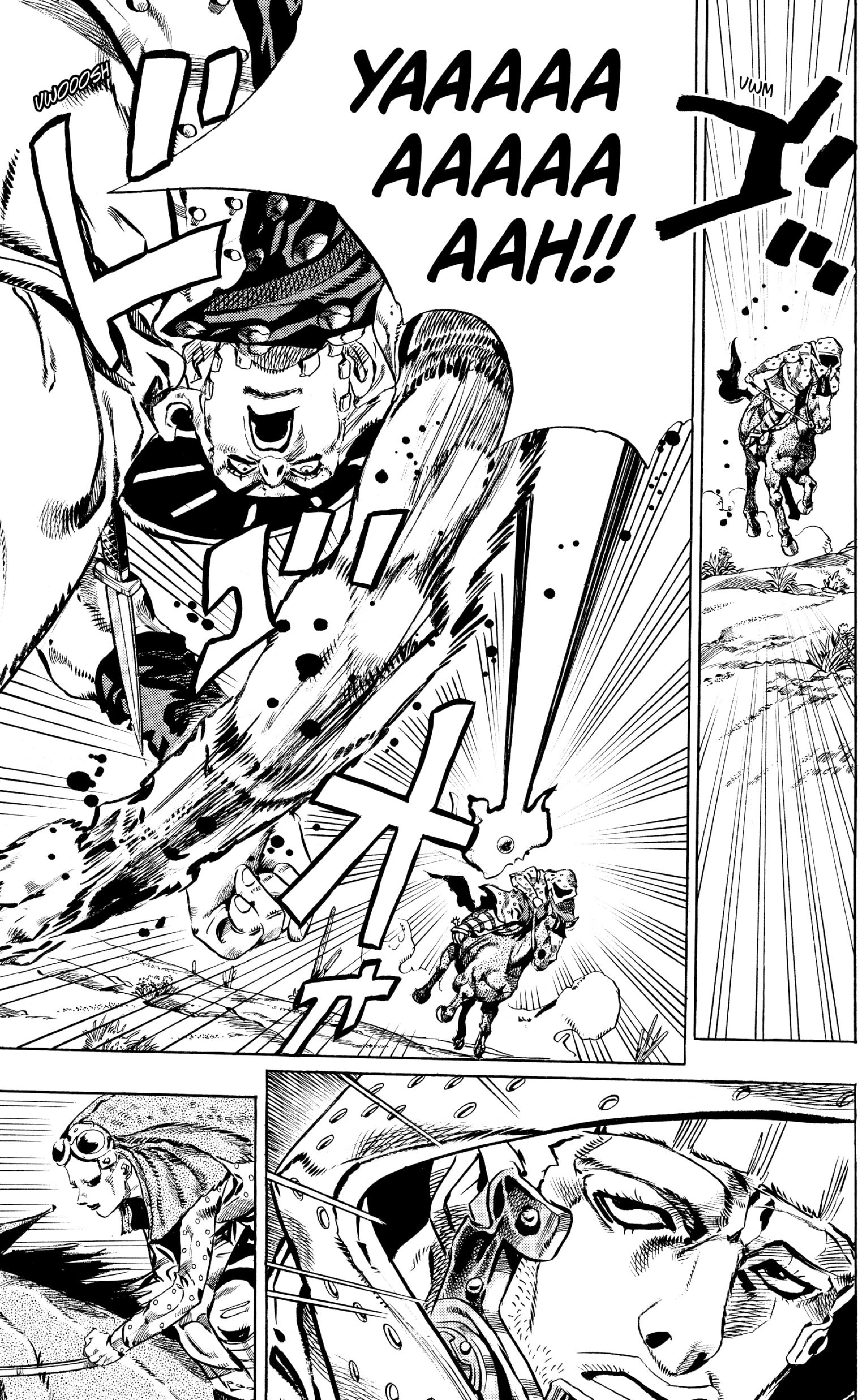

WHA...
WHAT THE HELL ?!
THEY'RE UNDER MY SKIN...


SKF
SKF


GYRO! THE KNIFE IS BEING PULLED TOWARD YOU TOO!
SKFFF

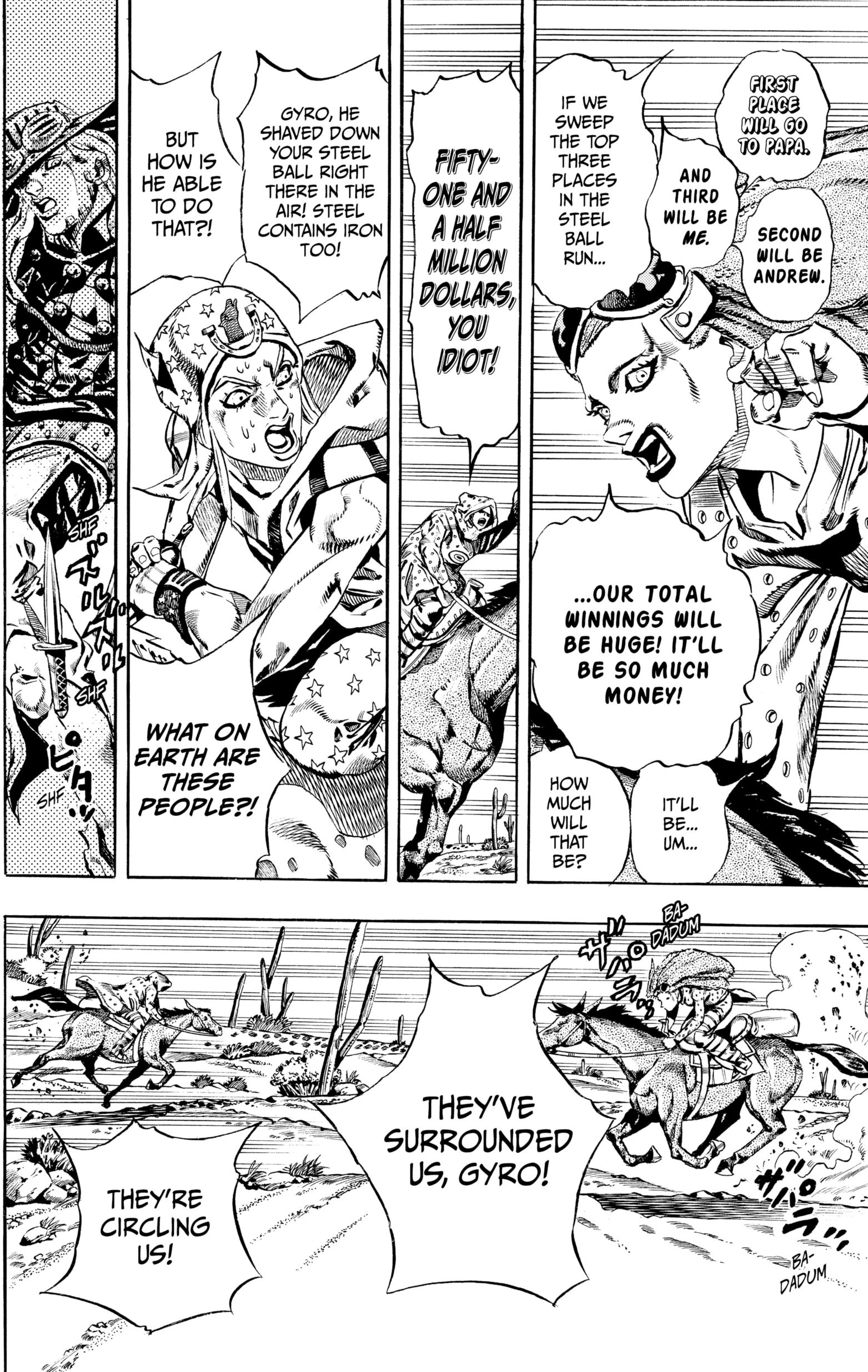
ANDREW'S NOT MOVING...
DO YA THINK HE WAS ABLE TO GET THE VENOM OUT?
WOULD YOU SHUT UP?!
DOOM
WHAT ARE YOU DOING STILL CLINGIN' TO MY ASS, LAURENCE?
I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU TO START CIRCLIN' AROUND THESE BASTARDS. YOU KNOW, MY PLAN?!
DO
THIS IS THE PART WHERE WE SURROUND THEM!
GOD, YOU'RE SLOW IN THE HEAD! JUST LIKE YOUR MOTHER!
JUST LIKE THE WOMAN WHO RAN OFF TO BE SOME WHORE!
OUR MOM WAS A STORK, WASN'T SHE?
THAT'S WHAT ANDREW SAID.
DO YOU REALLY THINK I LOOK LIKE A STORK?
DO
SHADDUP! NOW GET AROUND BEHIND THEM ALREADY!
VWOOM
SHF
THAT KNIFE IS MADE OF IRON.
THOSE GUN PARTS BURROWING UNDER YOUR SKIN ARE IRON TOO.
DO YOU THINK THAT'S WHY THEY'RE BEING PULLED TO YOU?

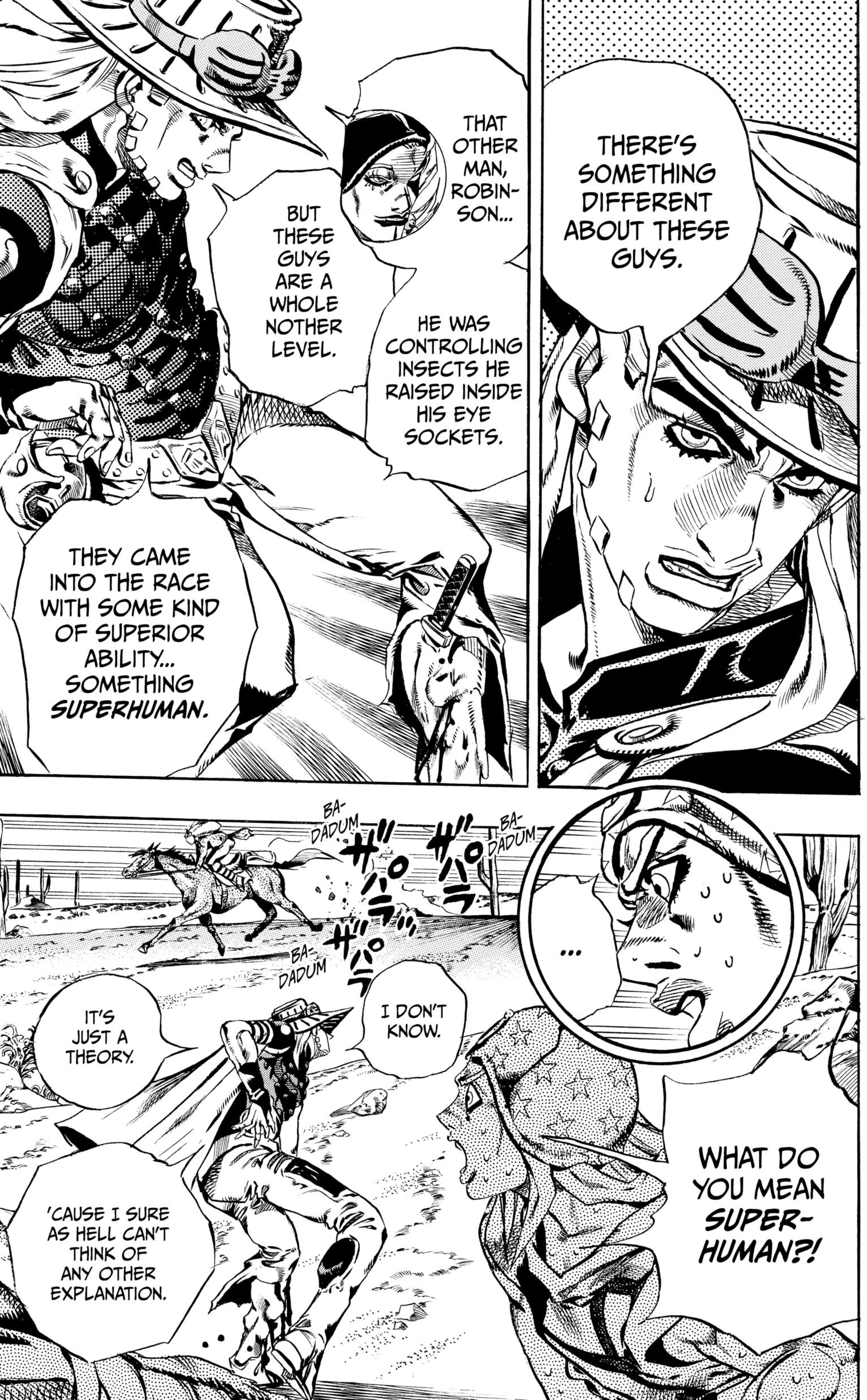

DO
DO
THERE'S EVEN IRON IN *BLOOD!*
DO
DO
DO
ZWSH
COULD THEY BE CONTROLLING THE *IRON* SOMEHOW?!
VWOOOSH
KLANG
KLAT

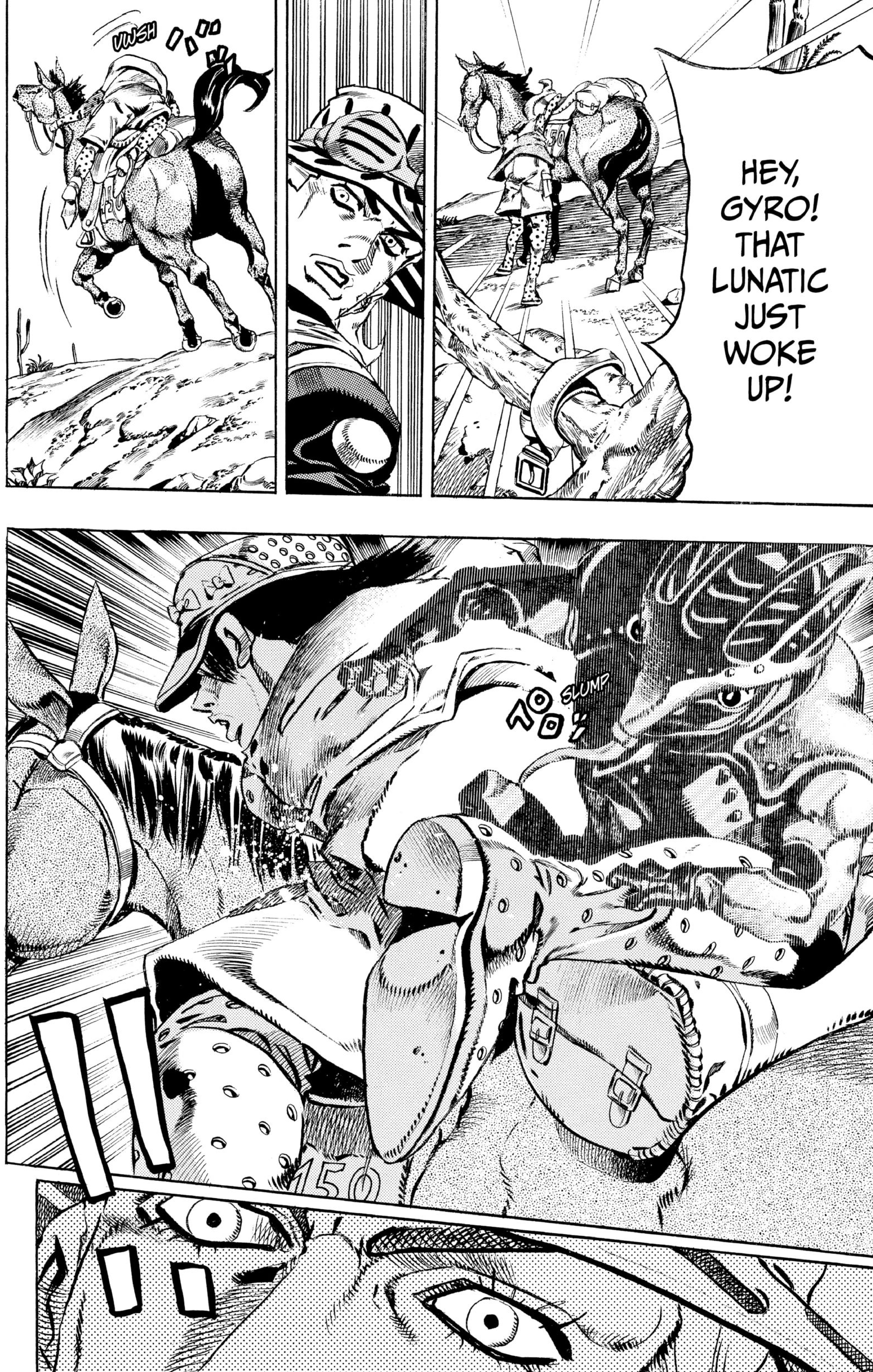

VWM
YAAAAA AAAAA AAH!!
VWOOOSH

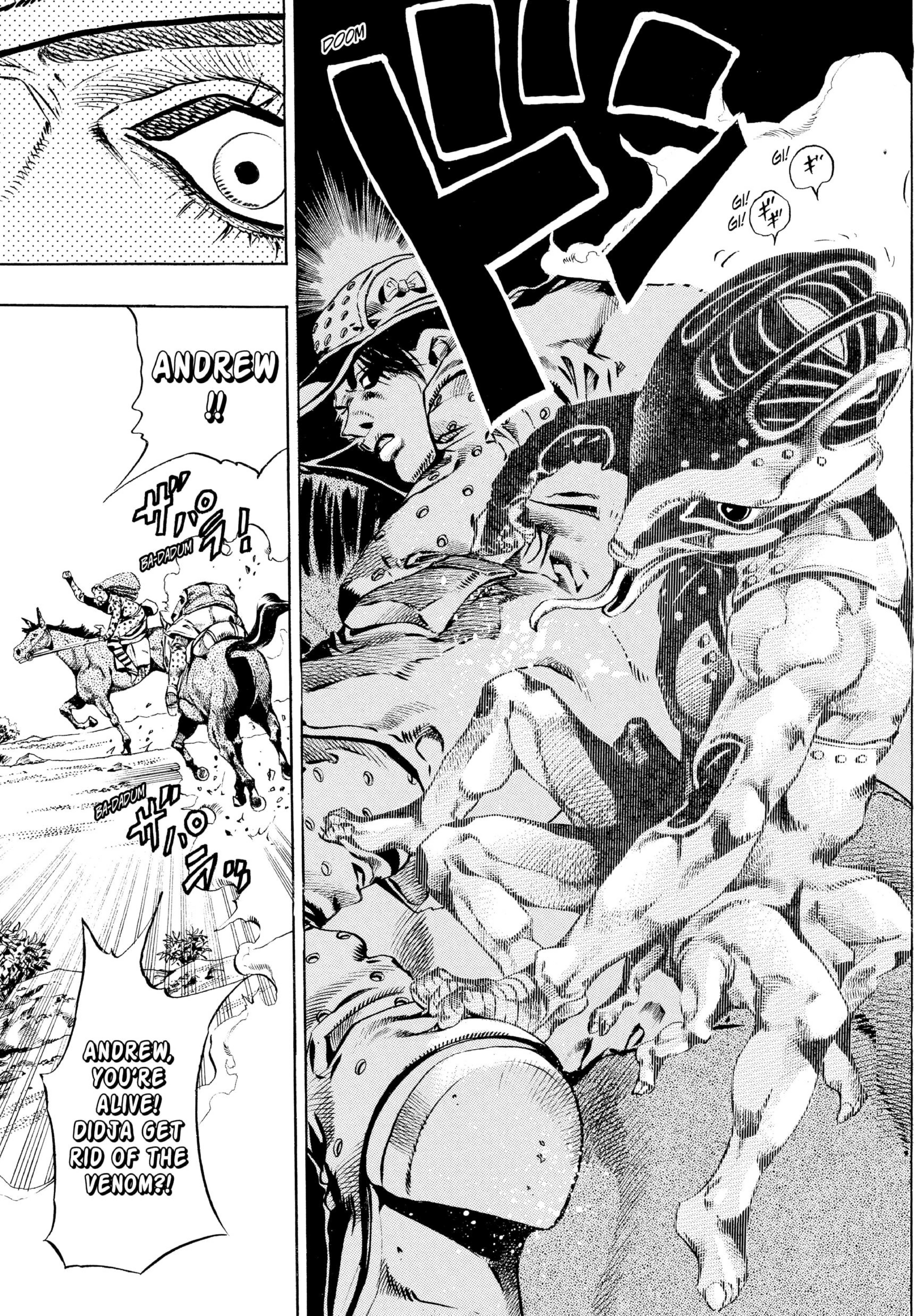
VWOOOM
KWEEEEEEEEM
SHF
EEEEEEM
EEEM
KWSSSH

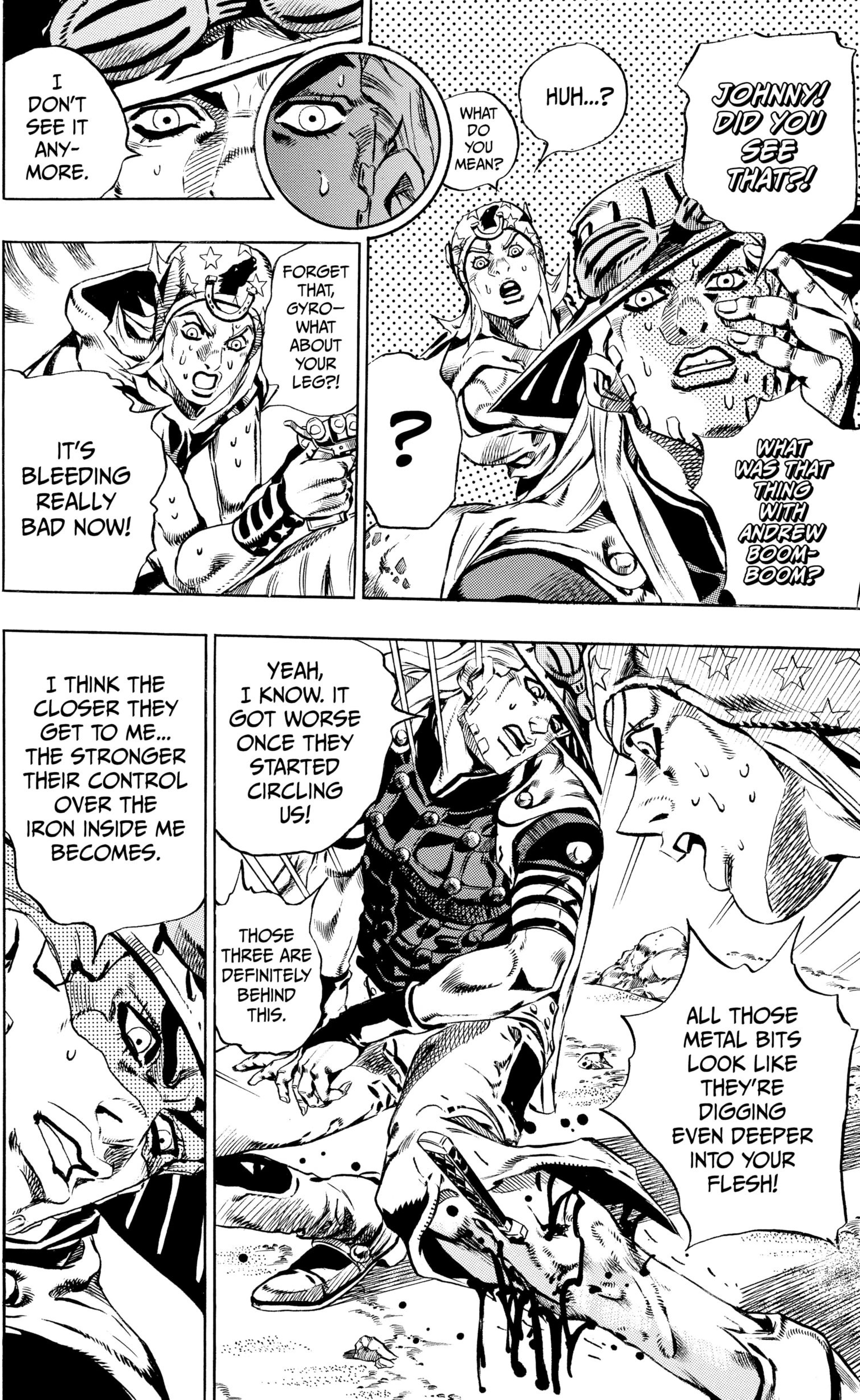
FSSSSSH
…
WHRL
WHRL
WHRL
WHRL
THE STEEL BALL...
HE WASN'T EVEN TOUCHING IT.
ドドドド
HE SHAVED IT DOWN IN MIDAIR!!
DOOOOOOOOM

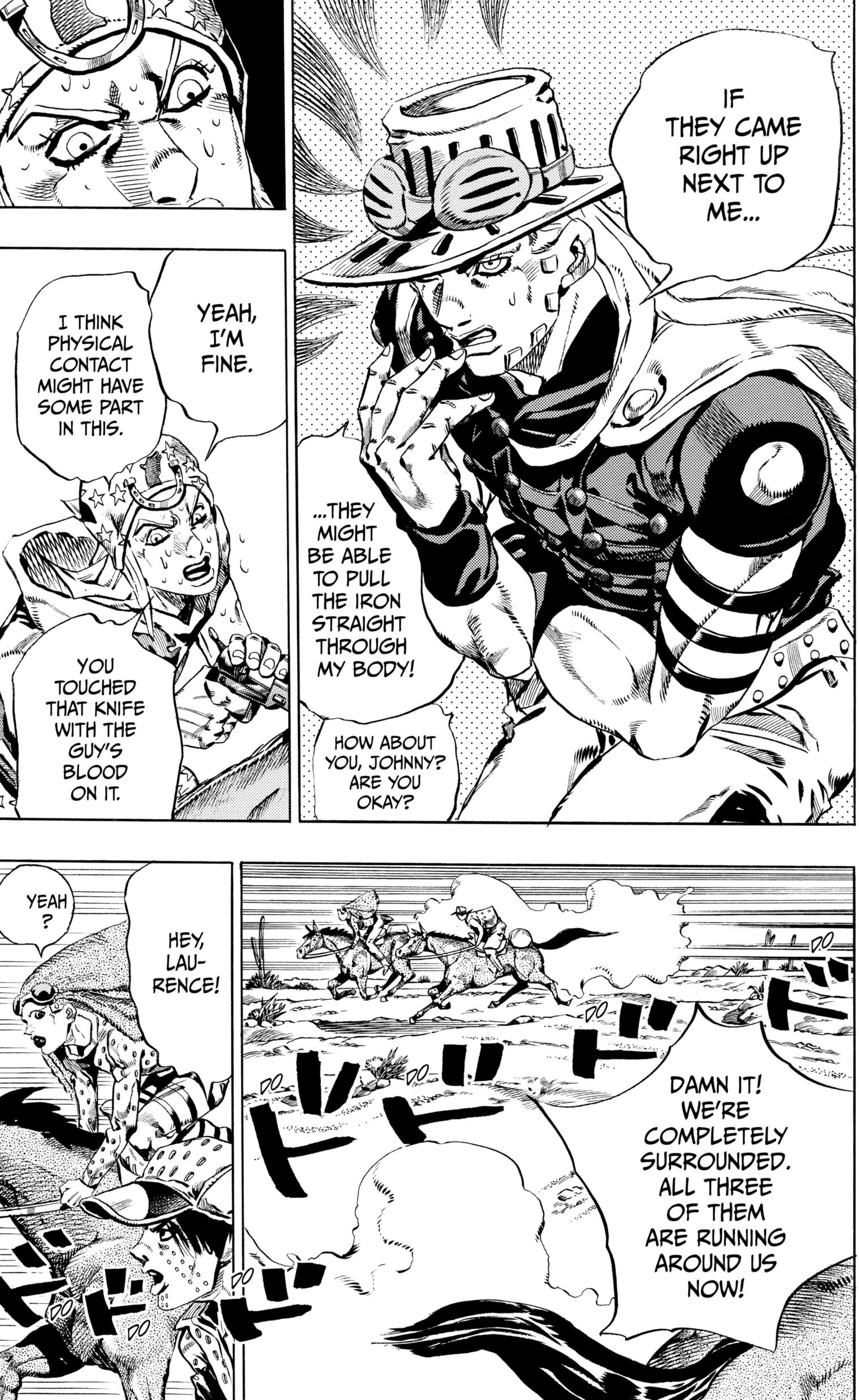

FIRST PLACE WILL GO TO PAPA.
SECOND WILL BE ANDREW.
AND THIRD WILL BE *ME.*
IF WE SWEEP THE TOP THREE PLACES IN THE STEEL BALL RUN...
...OUR TOTAL WINNINGS WILL BE HUGE! IT'LL BE SO MUCH MONEY!
IT'LL BE... UM...
HOW MUCH WILL THAT BE?
FIFTY-ONE AND A HALF MILLION DOLLARS, YOU IDIOT!
GYRO, HE SHAVED DOWN YOUR STEEL BALL RIGHT THERE IN THE AIR! STEEL CONTAINS IRON TOO!
BUT HOW IS HE ABLE TO DO THAT?!
WHAT ON EARTH ARE THESE PEOPLE?!
SHF
SHF
SHF
BA-DADUM
THEY'VE SURROUNDED US, GYRO!
THEY'RE CIRCLING US!
BA-DADUM

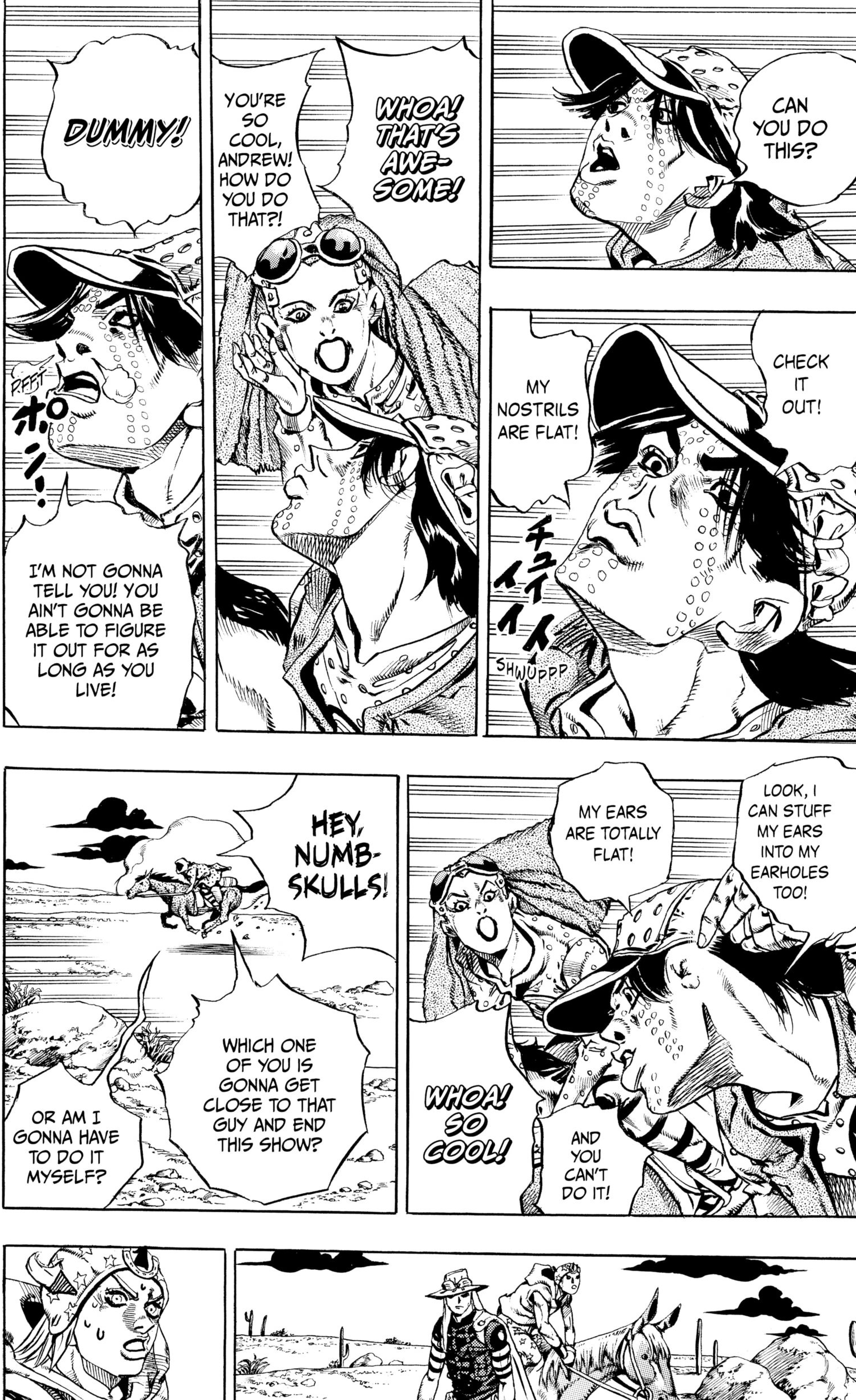

THERE'S SOMETHING DIFFERENT ABOUT THESE GUYS.
THAT OTHER MAN, ROBINSON...
HE WAS CONTROLLING INSECTS HE RAISED INSIDE HIS EYE SOCKETS.
BUT THESE GUYS ARE A WHOLE NOTHER LEVEL.
THEY CAME INTO THE RACE WITH SOME KIND OF SUPERIOR ABILITY... SOMETHING *SUPERHUMAN.*
BA-DADUM
ザパラ
BA-DADUM
ザパラ
BA-DADUM
ザパラ
...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN *SUPER-HUMAN?!*
I DON'T KNOW.
IT'S JUST A THEORY.
'CAUSE I SURE AS HELL CAN'T THINK OF ANY OTHER EXPLANATION.

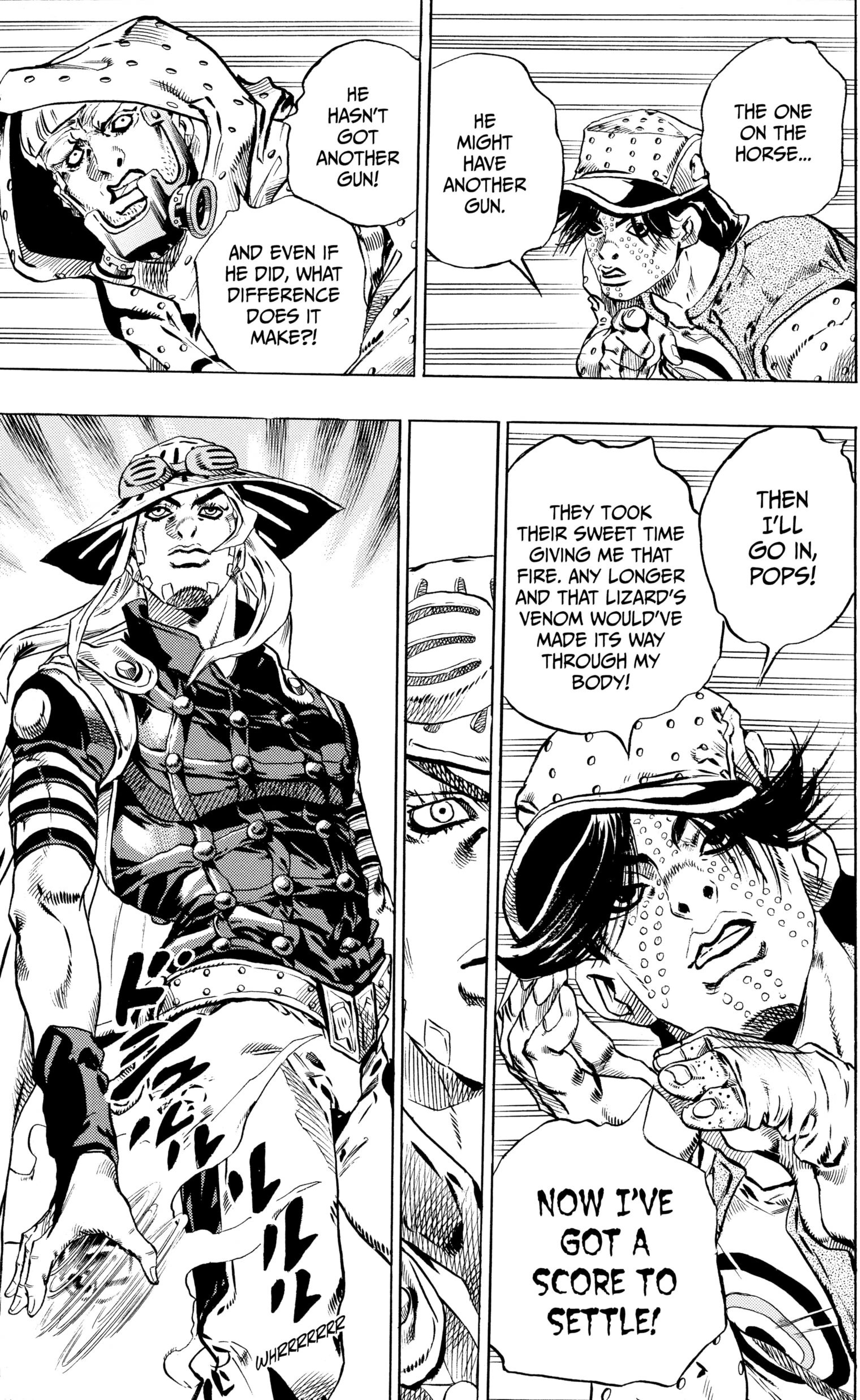

HEY, GYRO! THAT LUNATIC JUST WOKE UP!
VWSH
SLUMP

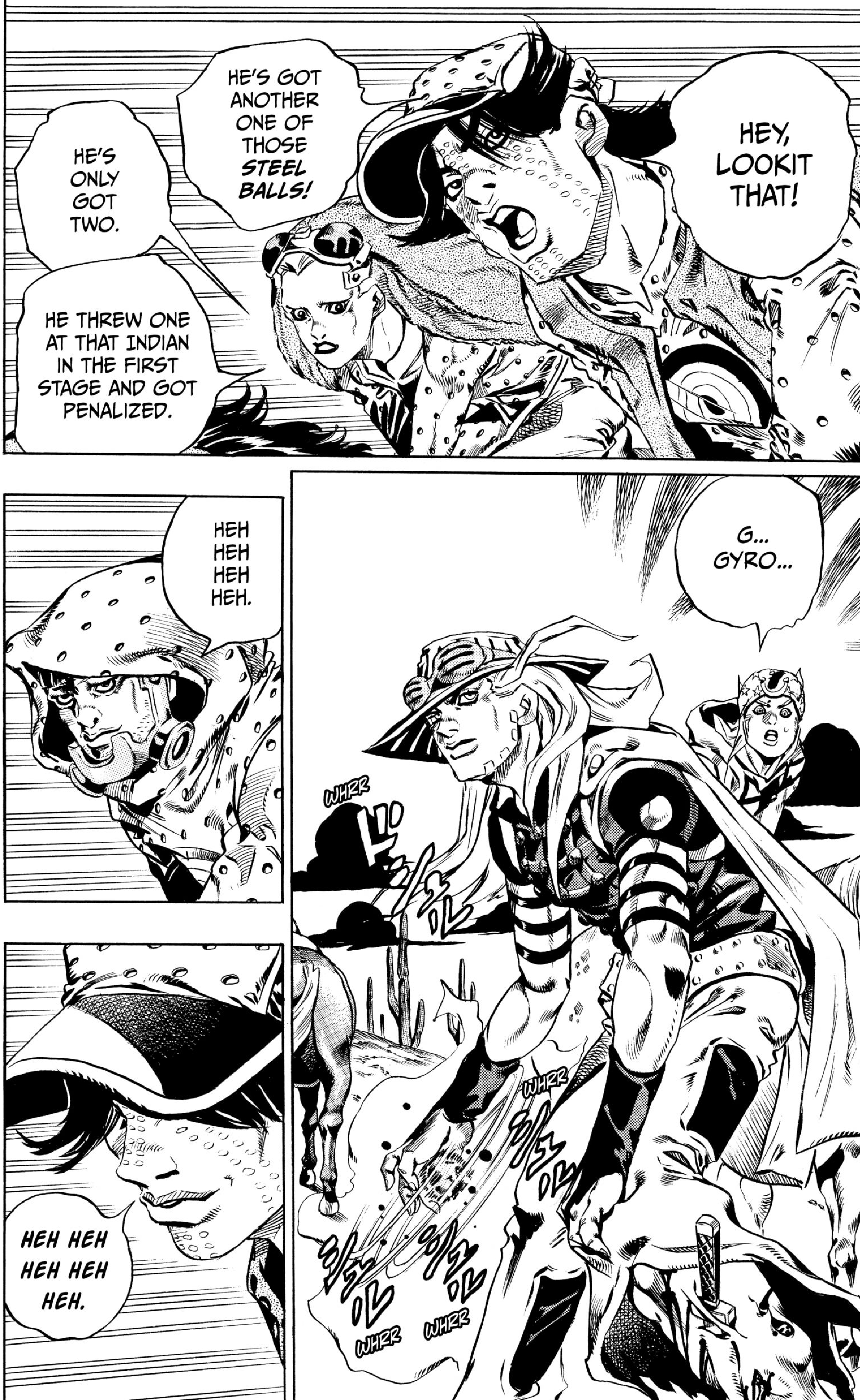

DOOM
GI!
GI! GI!
ANDREW !!
BA-DADUM
BA-DADUM
ANDREW, YOU'RE ALIVE! DIDJA GET RID OF THE VENOM?!

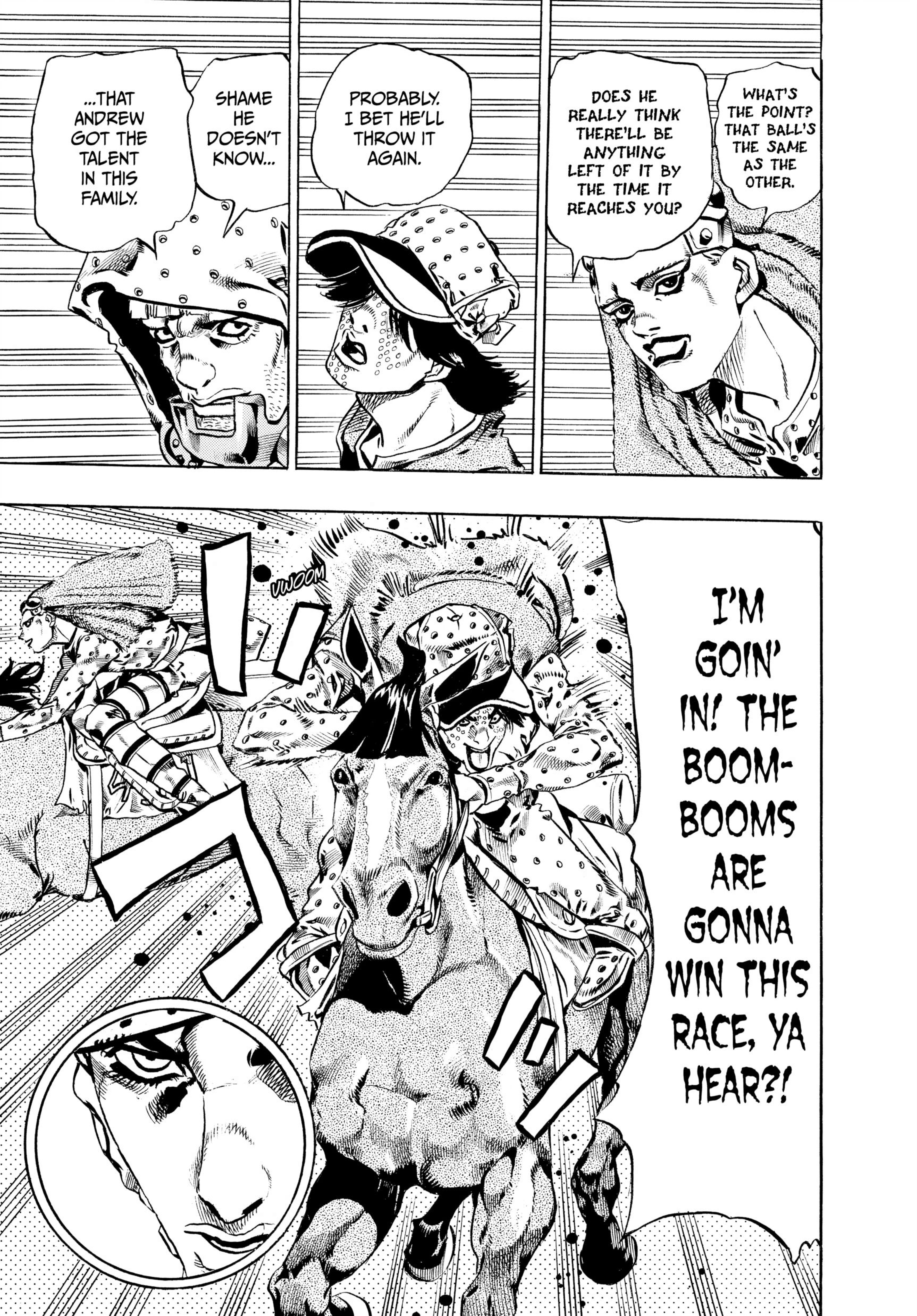

JOHNNY! DID YOU SEE THAT?!
HUH...?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I DON'T SEE IT ANYMORE.
WHAT WAS THAT THING WITH ANDREW BOOM-BOOM?
?
FORGET THAT, GYRO— WHAT ABOUT YOUR LEG?!
IT'S BLEEDING REALLY BAD NOW!
ALL THOSE METAL BITS LOOK LIKE THEY'RE DIGGING EVEN DEEPER INTO YOUR FLESH!
YEAH, I KNOW. IT GOT WORSE ONCE THEY STARTED CIRCLING US!
THOSE THREE ARE DEFINITELY BEHIND THIS.
I THINK THE CLOSER THEY GET TO ME... THE STRONGER THEIR CONTROL OVER THE IRON INSIDE ME BECOMES.


IF THEY CAME RIGHT UP NEXT TO ME...
...THEY MIGHT BE ABLE TO PULL THE IRON STRAIGHT THROUGH MY BODY!
HOW ABOUT YOU, JOHNNY? ARE YOU OKAY?
YEAH, I'M FINE.
I THINK PHYSICAL CONTACT MIGHT HAVE SOME PART IN THIS.
YOU TOUCHED THAT KNIFE WITH THE GUY'S BLOOD ON IT.
DO
DO
DO
DO
DAMN IT! WE'RE COMPLETELY SURROUNDED. ALL THREE OF THEM ARE RUNNING AROUND US NOW!
HEY, LAURENCE!
YEAH?
DO
DO
DO

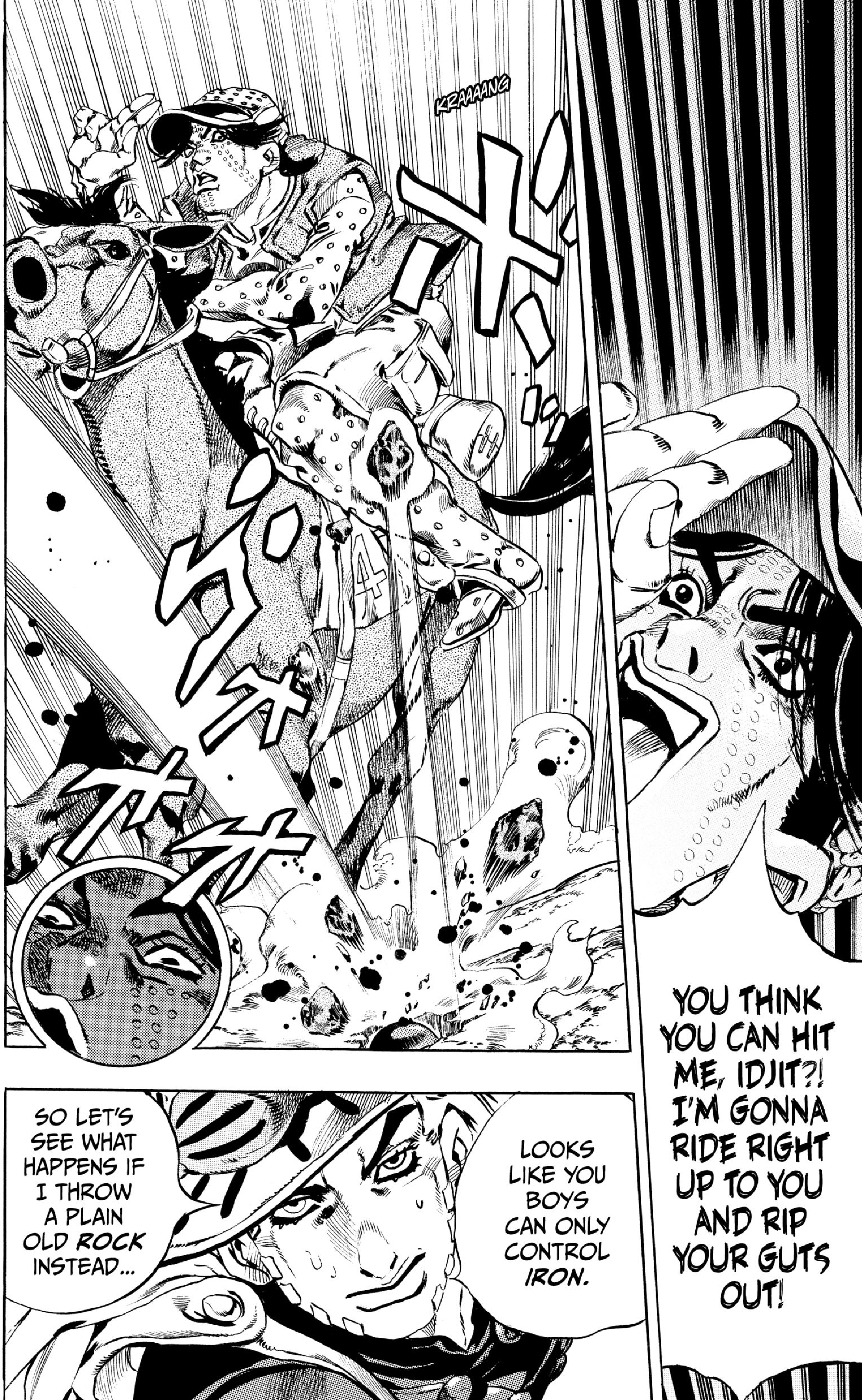

CAN YOU DO THIS?
CHECK IT OUT!
MY NOSTRILS ARE FLAT!
チュイイイ
SHWUPPP
WHOA! THAT'S AWESOME!
YOU'RE SO COOL, ANDREW! HOW DO YOU DO THAT?!
DUMMY!
ポン!!
PFFT
I'M NOT GONNA TELL YOU! YOU AIN'T GONNA BE ABLE TO FIGURE IT OUT FOR AS LONG AS YOU LIVE!
LOOK, I CAN STUFF MY EARS INTO MY EARHOLES TOO!
MY EARS ARE TOTALLY FLAT!
AND YOU CAN'T DO IT!
WHOA! SO COOL!
HEY, NUMBSKULLS!
WHICH ONE OF YOU IS GONNA GET CLOSE TO THAT GUY AND END THIS SHOW?
OR AM I GONNA HAVE TO DO IT MYSELF?

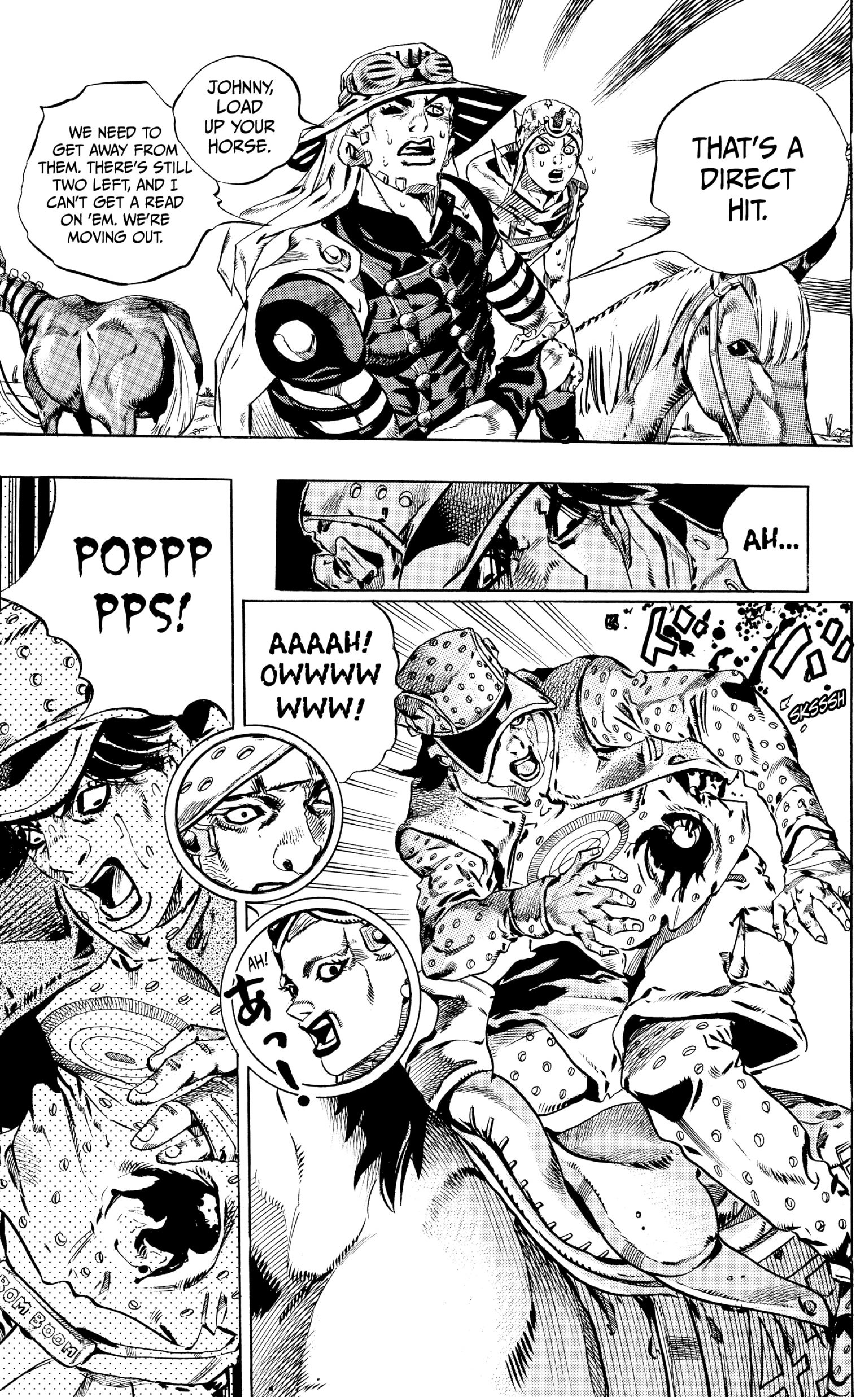

THE ONE ON THE HORSE...
HE MIGHT HAVE ANOTHER GUN.
HE HASN'T GOT ANOTHER GUN!
AND EVEN IF HE DID, WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?!
THEN I'LL GO IN, POPS!
THEY TOOK THEIR SWEET TIME GIVING ME THAT FIRE. ANY LONGER AND THAT LIZARD'S VENOM WOULD'VE MADE ITS WAY THROUGH MY BODY!
NOW I'VE GOT A SCORE TO SETTLE!
WHRRRRRR


HEY, LOOKIT THAT!
HE'S GOT ANOTHER ONE OF THOSE STEEL BALLS!
HE'S ONLY GOT TWO.
HE THREW ONE AT THAT INDIAN IN THE FIRST STAGE AND GOT PENALIZED.
G... GYRO...
WHRR
WHRR
WHRR
WHRR
HEH HEH HEH HEH.
HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH.


WHAT'S THE POINT? THAT BALL'S THE SAME AS THE OTHER.
DOES HE REALLY THINK THERE'LL BE ANYTHING LEFT OF IT BY THE TIME IT REACHES YOU?
PROBABLY. I BET HE'LL THROW IT AGAIN.
SHAME HE DOESN'T KNOW...
...THAT ANDREW GOT THE TALENT IN THIS FAMILY.
I'M GOIN' IN! THE BOOM-BOOMS ARE GONNA WIN THIS RACE, YA HEAR?!
VWOOM

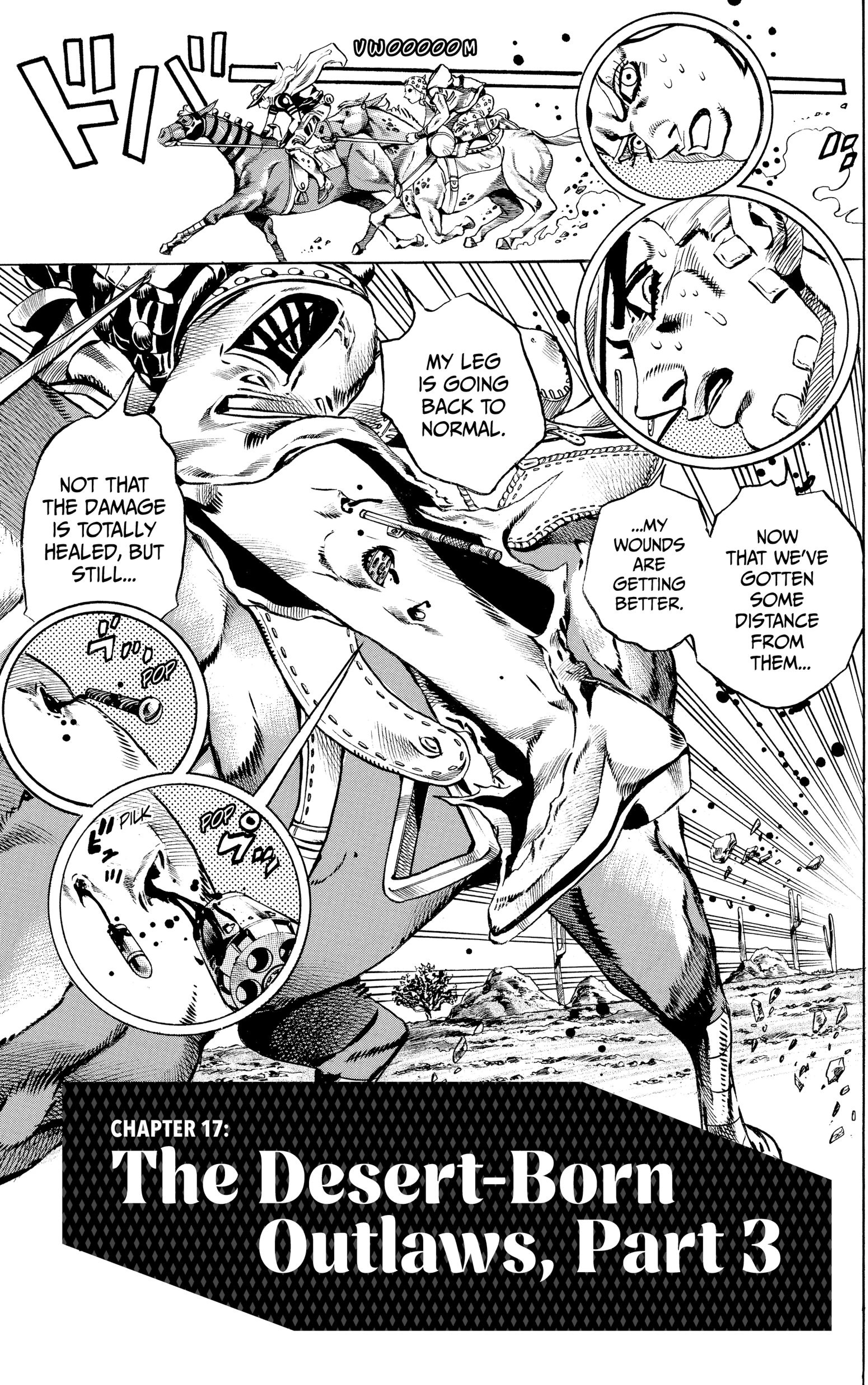
VWOOOOSH
YOU THINK YOU CAN HIT ME, DUMBASS?!
VWOOO
WHA?
HA HA! TRYING A DIFFERENT ANGLE THIS TIME, HUH?
IT WON'T MAKE A DIFFERENCE. YOU'LL NEVER REACH ME!


KRAAAANG
YOU THINK YOU CAN HIT ME, IDJIT?! I'M GONNA RIDE RIGHT UP TO YOU AND RIP YOUR GUTS OUT!
LOOKS LIKE YOU BOYS CAN ONLY CONTROL *IRON.*
SO LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS IF I THROW A PLAIN OLD *ROCK* INSTEAD...

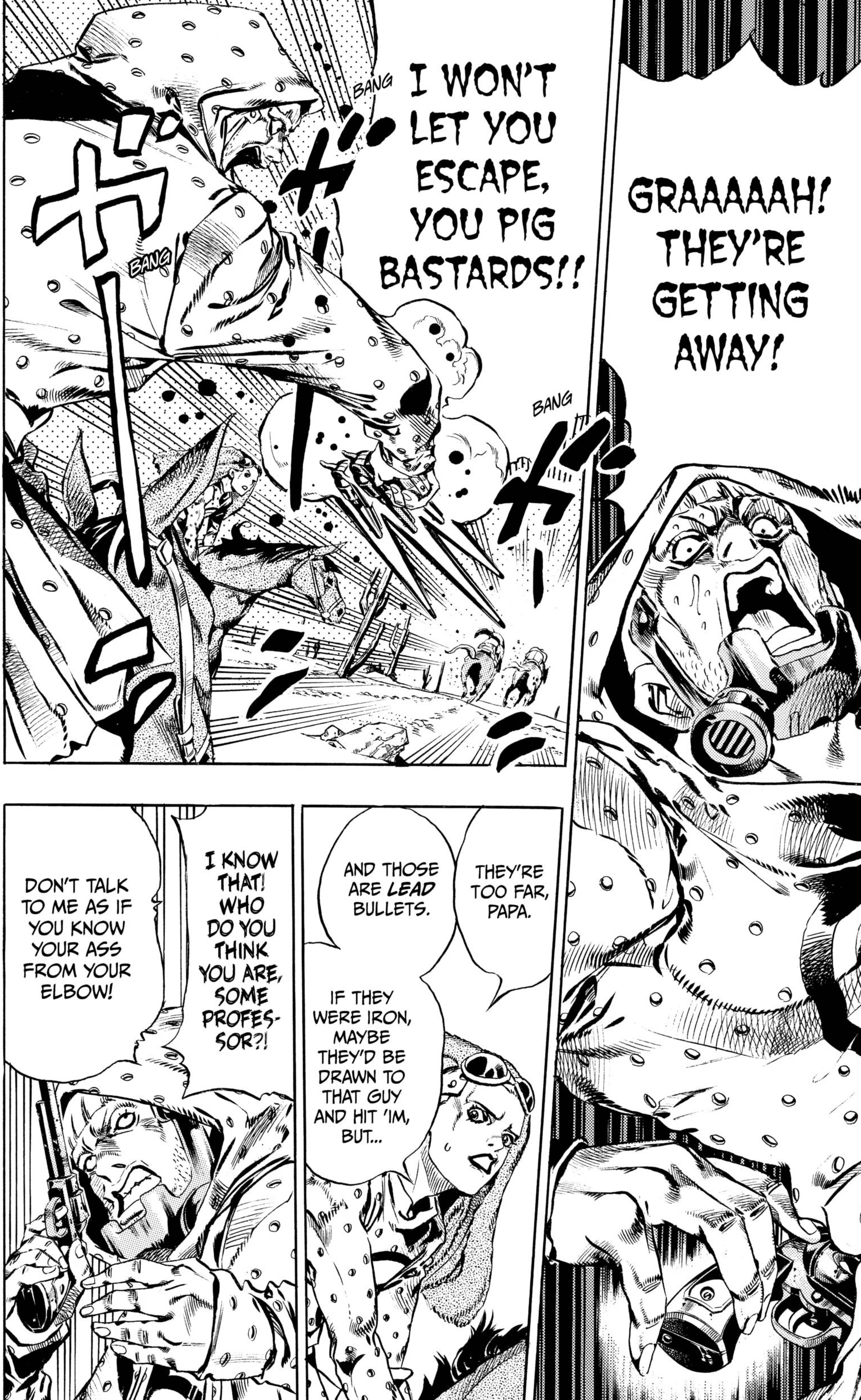

THAT'S A DIRECT HIT.
JOHNNY, LOAD UP YOUR HORSE.
WE NEED TO GET AWAY FROM THEM. THERE'S STILL TWO LEFT, AND I CAN'T GET A READ ON 'EM. WE'RE MOVING OUT.
AH...
SKSSSH
AAAAH! OWWWWWWW!
AH!
あっ!
POPPPPPS!
BOOM BOOM

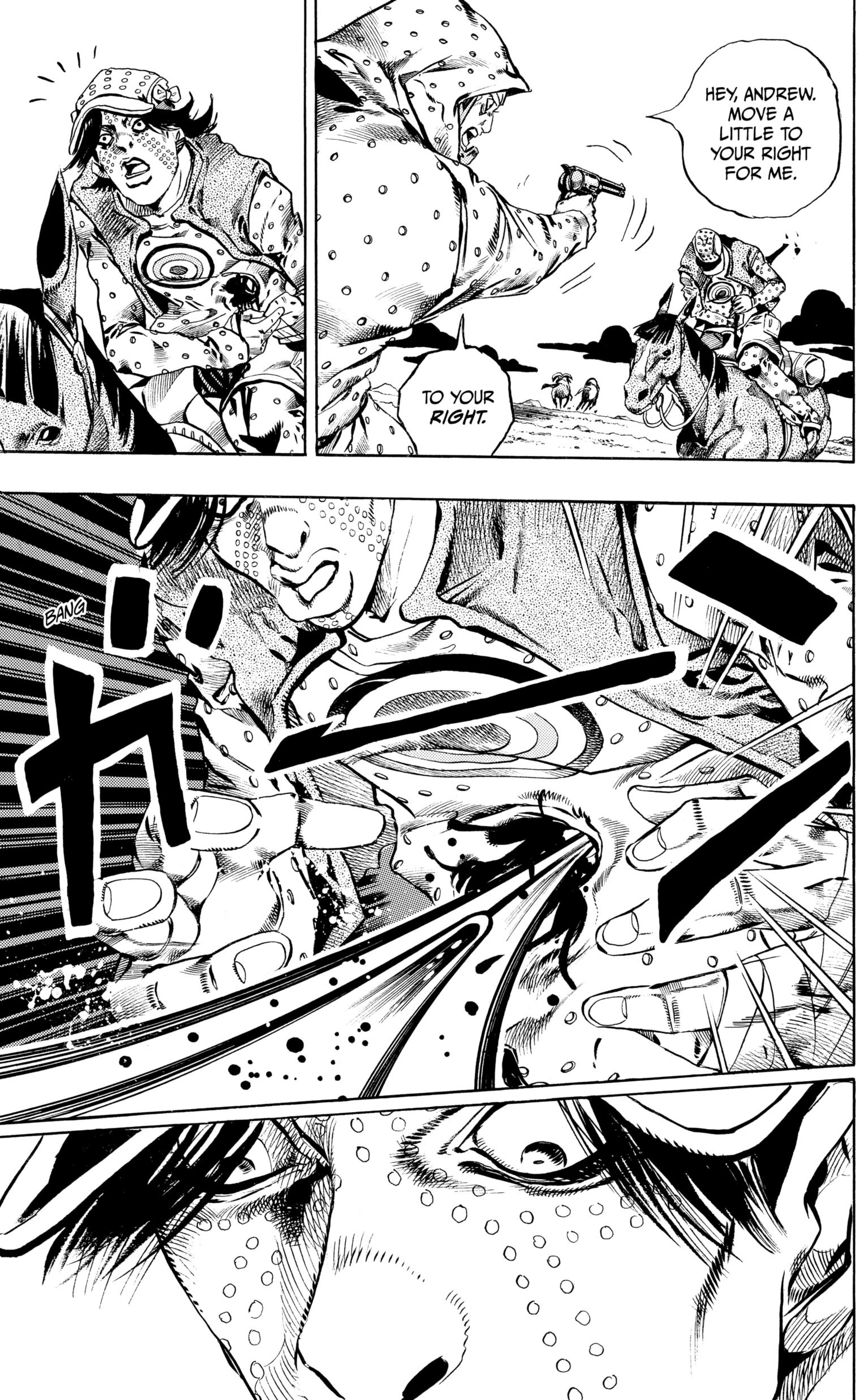
CHAPTER 17:

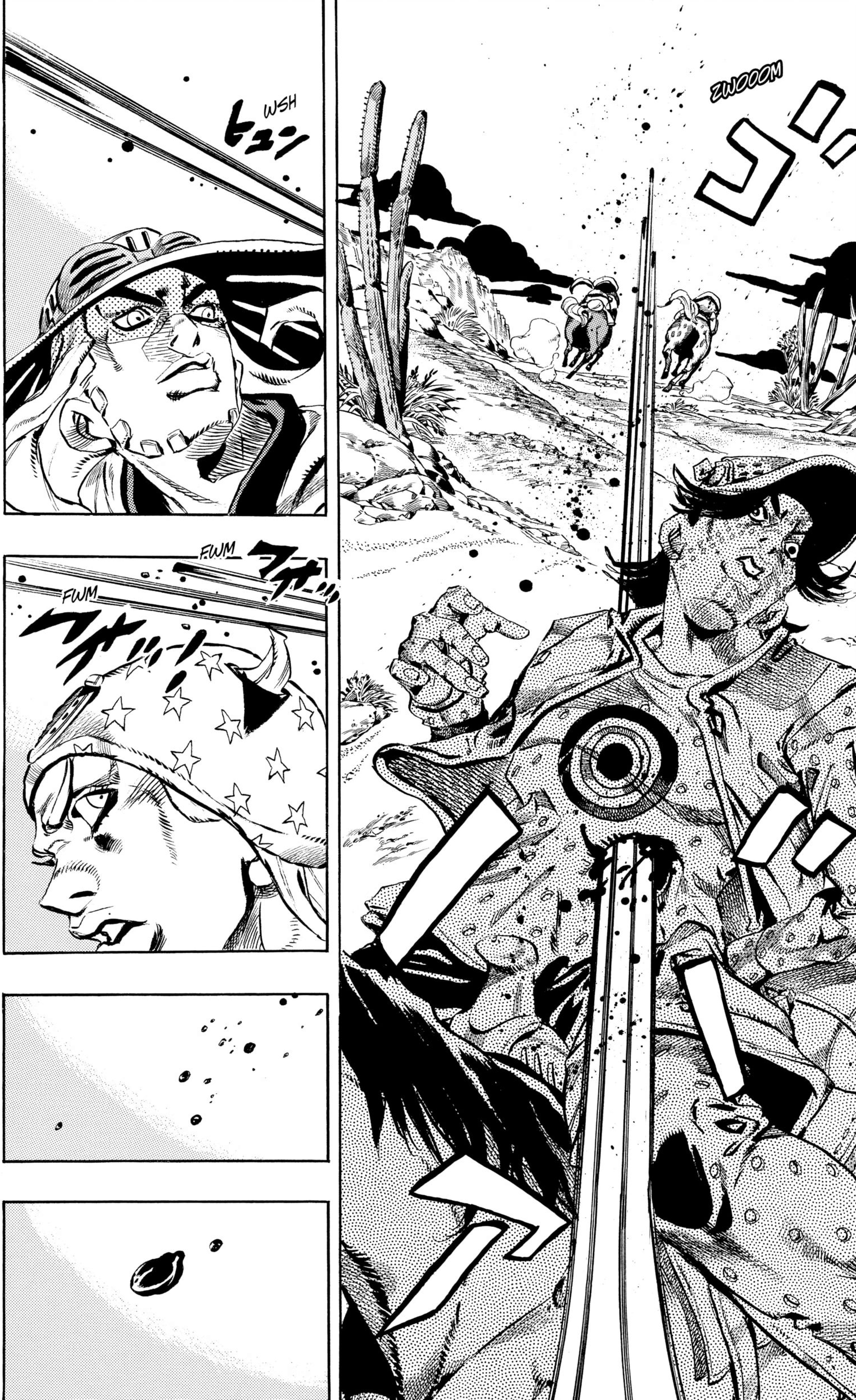
The Desert-Born Outlaws, Part 3

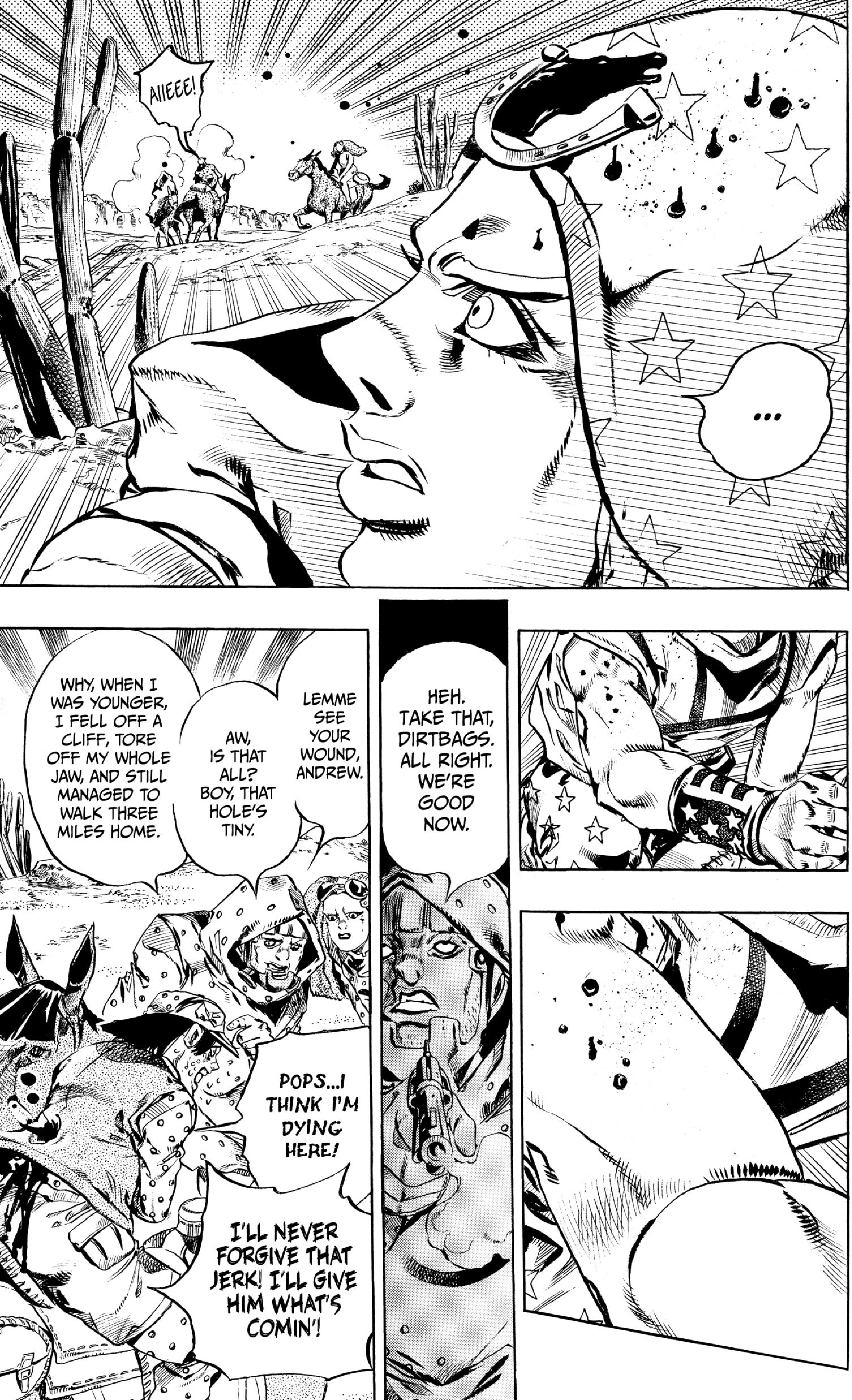

ドドド
VWOOOOOM
NOW THAT WE'VE GOTTEN SOME DISTANCE FROM THEM...
...MY WOUNDS ARE GETTING BETTER.
MY LEG IS GOING BACK TO NORMAL.
NOT THAT THE DAMAGE IS TOTALLY HEALED, BUT STILL...
POP
PILK
POP

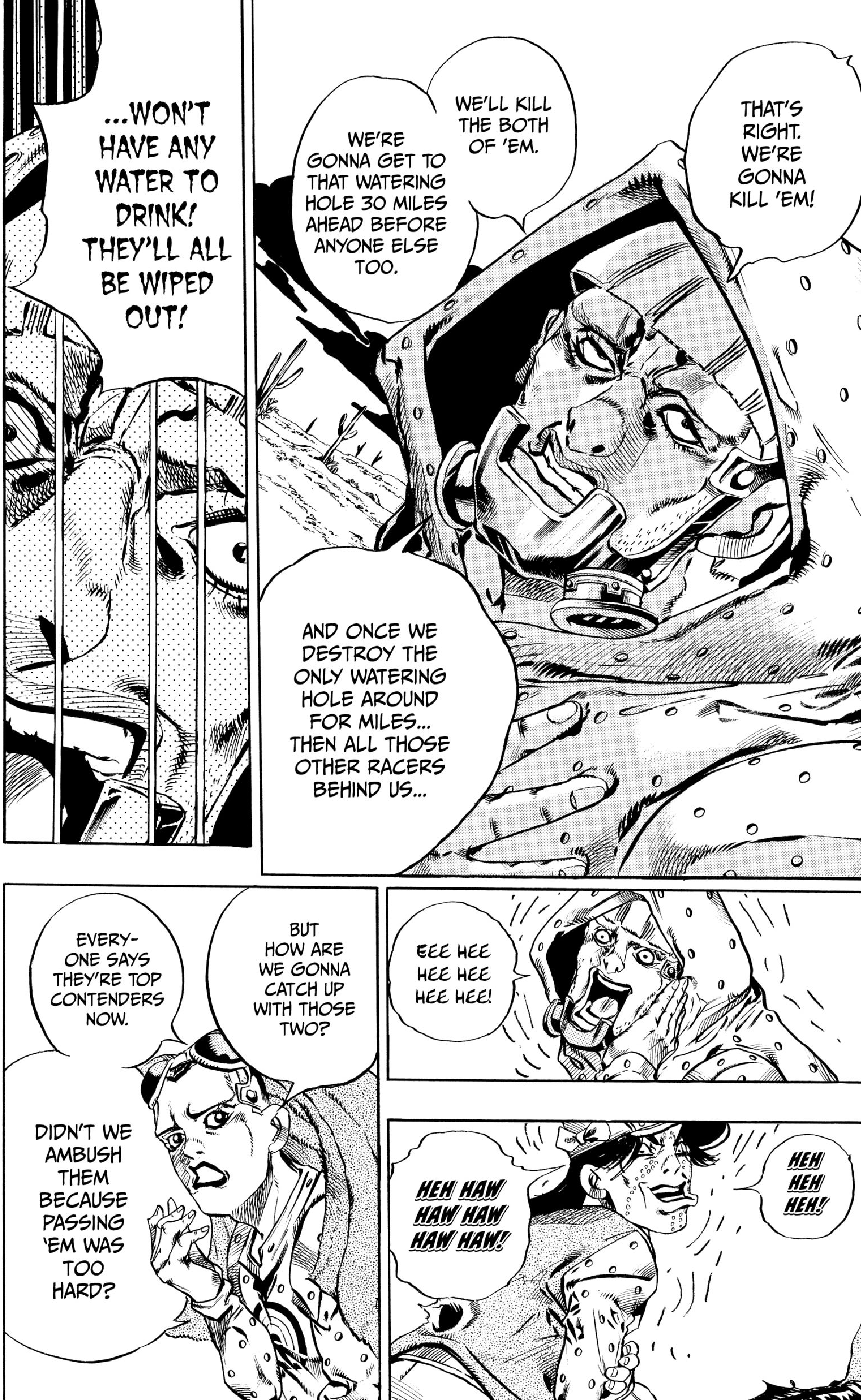
WHAT KIND OF TRICK WAS THAT?
DO YOU THINK IT WAS THE EFFECT OF SOME KIND OF POISON? A DISEASE, MAYBE?
WE MIGHT BE BETTER OFF THINKING OF IT AS A MAGIC SPELL THAN SOME TRICK...
THAT'S ALL I CAN FIGURE.
BA-DADUM
A SPELL ...?
THEY ESTABLISHED PHYSICAL CONTACT WITH ME, THEN ALL THREE SURROUNDED US AND STARTED CLOSING IN.
IT SEEMS LIKE WHEN THEY CATCH YOU IN THE MIDDLE...
...THAT'S WHEN THEIR ATTACK IS THE MOST POWERFUL.
A SPELL THAT ATTRACTS IRON.
LIKE MAGNETS BEING DRAWN CLOSE TOGETHER.
ANYWAY, SUN'S GONE DOWN, BUT WE DON'T HAVE A CHOICE...
UWOOM
WE HAVE TO GET FARTHER AHEAD OF THEM!
OUR NEXT STOP IS THE WATERING HOLE 30 MILES AWAY. IT'S THE ONLY ONE IN THE DESERT AHEAD!
UWOOOOM
OWW WWW WW!
OH MY GOD !!
DAMN IT ALL!!
GYRO ZEPPELI, YOU MEAN SONUVA...!
THERE'S A HOLE IN YOUR STOMACH, ANDREW!
AAAAAH! IT'S BIGGER THAN YOUR BELLY BUTTON!

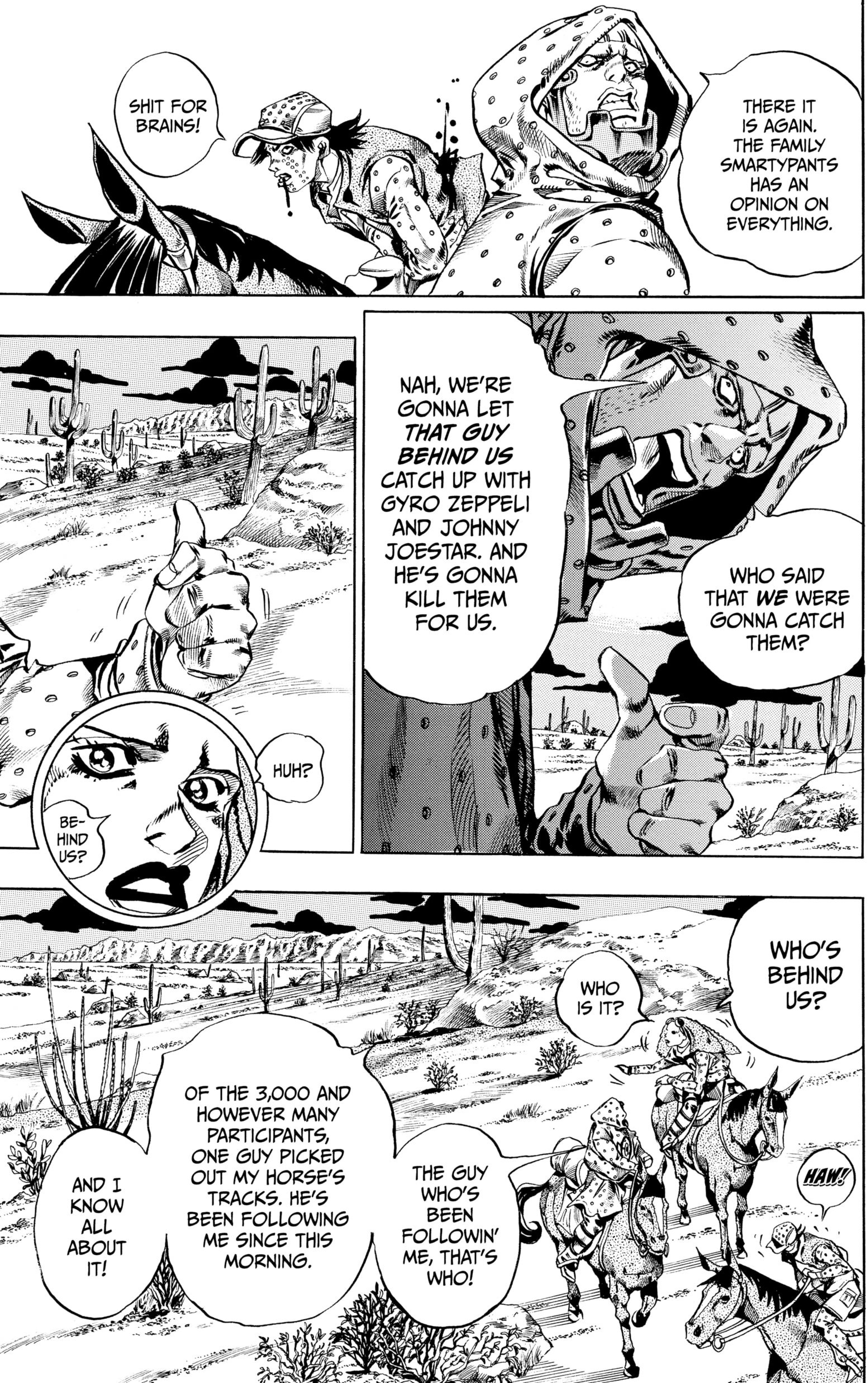

GRAAAAAH! THEY'RE GETTING AWAY!
BANG
I WON'T LET YOU ESCAPE, YOU PIG BASTARDS!!
BANG
BANG
THEY'RE TOO FAR, PAPA.
AND THOSE ARE *LEAD* BULLETS.
IF THEY WERE IRON, MAYBE THEY'D BE DRAWN TO THAT GUY AND HIT 'IM, BUT...
I KNOW THAT! WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, SOME PROFESSOR?!
DON'T TALK TO ME AS IF YOU KNOW YOUR ASS FROM YOUR ELBOW!

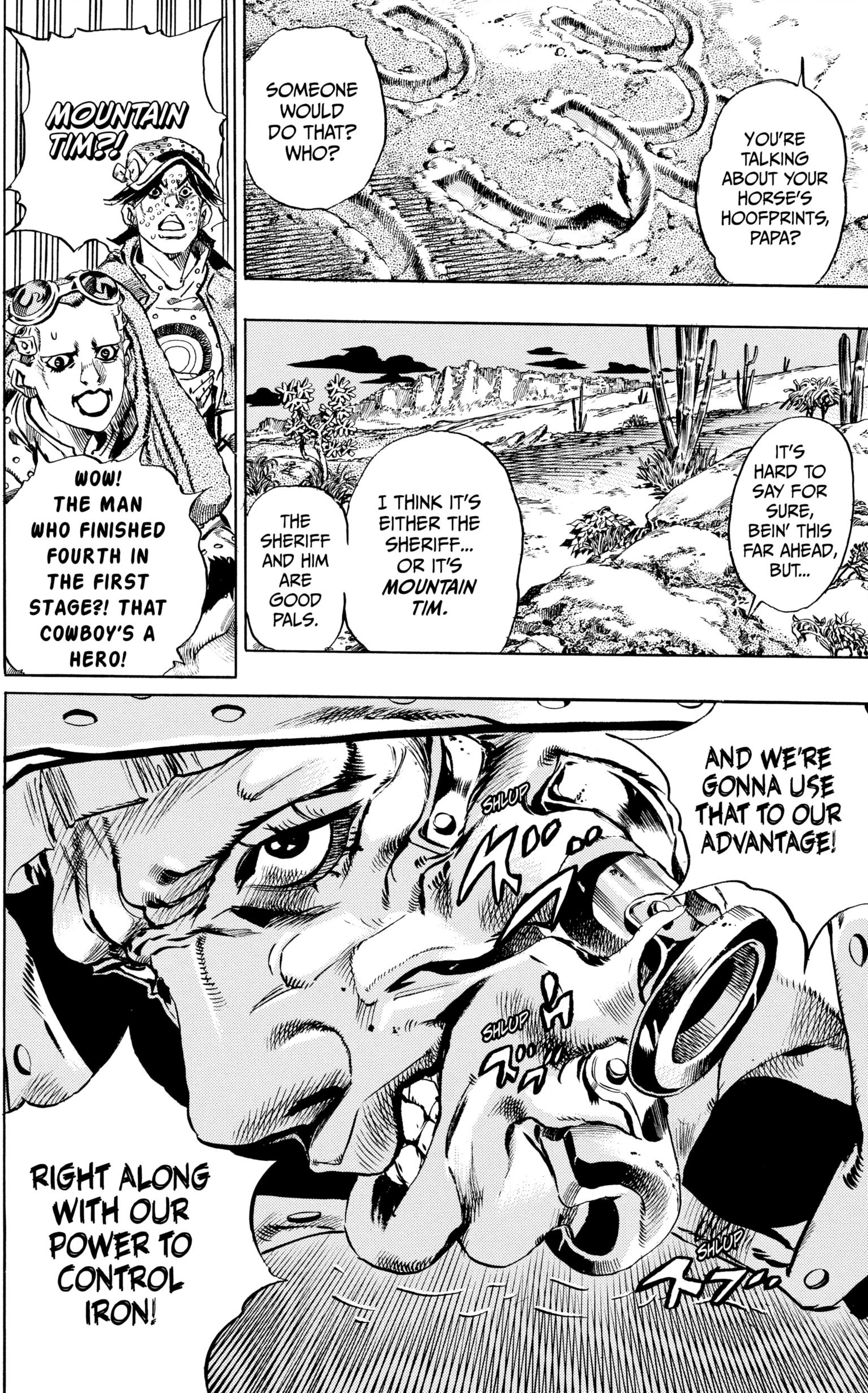

HEY, ANDREW. MOVE A LITTLE TO YOUR RIGHT FOR ME.
TO YOUR *RIGHT.*
BANG
ガーン

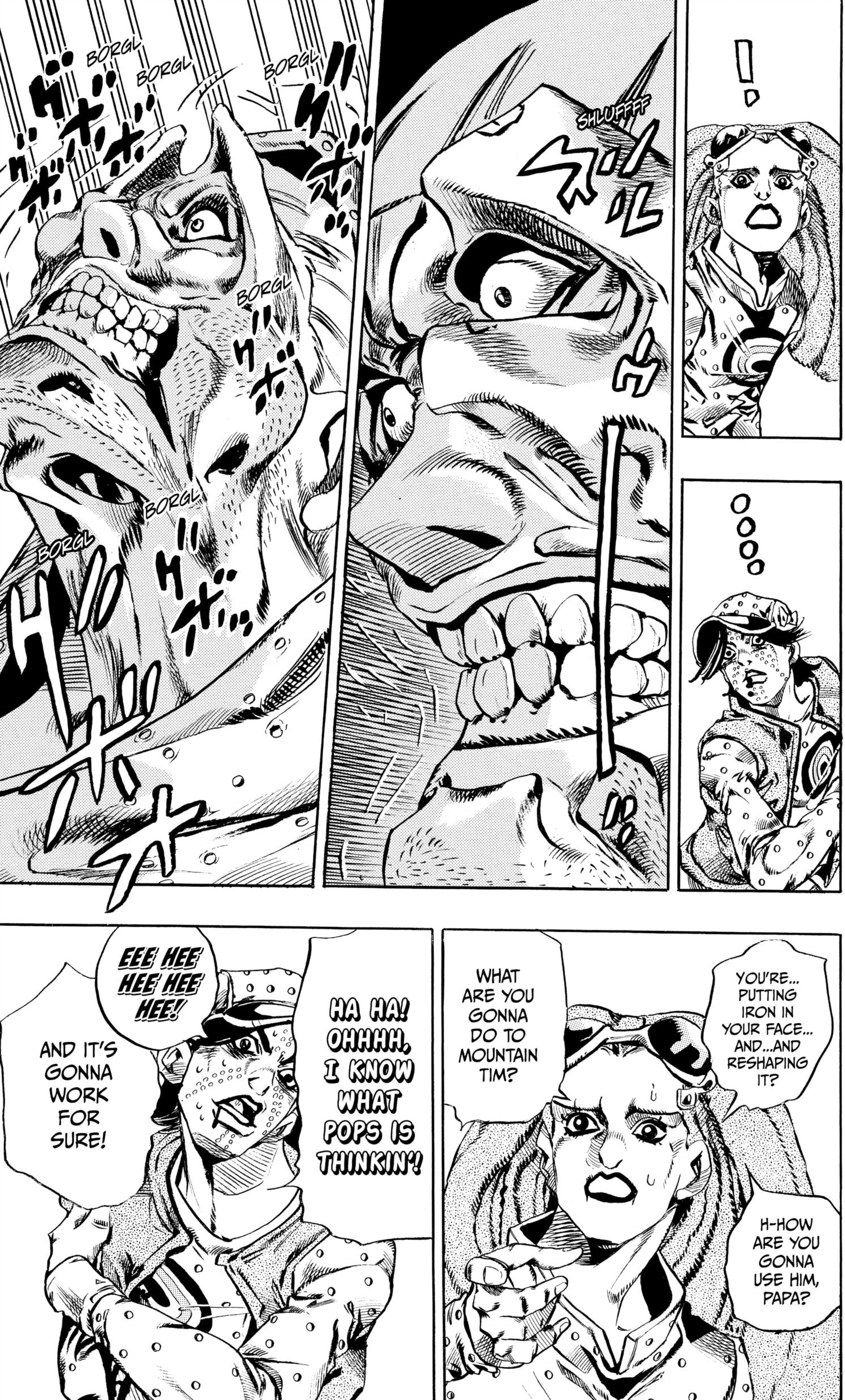

ZWOOOM
WSH
ヒュン
FWM
フォーッ
FWM
フォーッ


...
AIIEEE!
HEH. TAKE THAT, DIRTBAGS. ALL RIGHT. WE'RE GOOD NOW.
LEMME SEE YOUR WOUND, ANDREW.
AW, IS THAT ALL? BOY, THAT HOLE'S TINY.
WHY, WHEN I WAS YOUNGER, I FELL OFF A CLIFF, TORE OFF MY WHOLE JAW, AND STILL MANAGED TO WALK THREE MILES HOME.
POPS...I THINK I'M DYING HERE!
I'LL NEVER FORGIVE THAT JERK! I'LL GIVE HIM WHAT'S COMIN'!

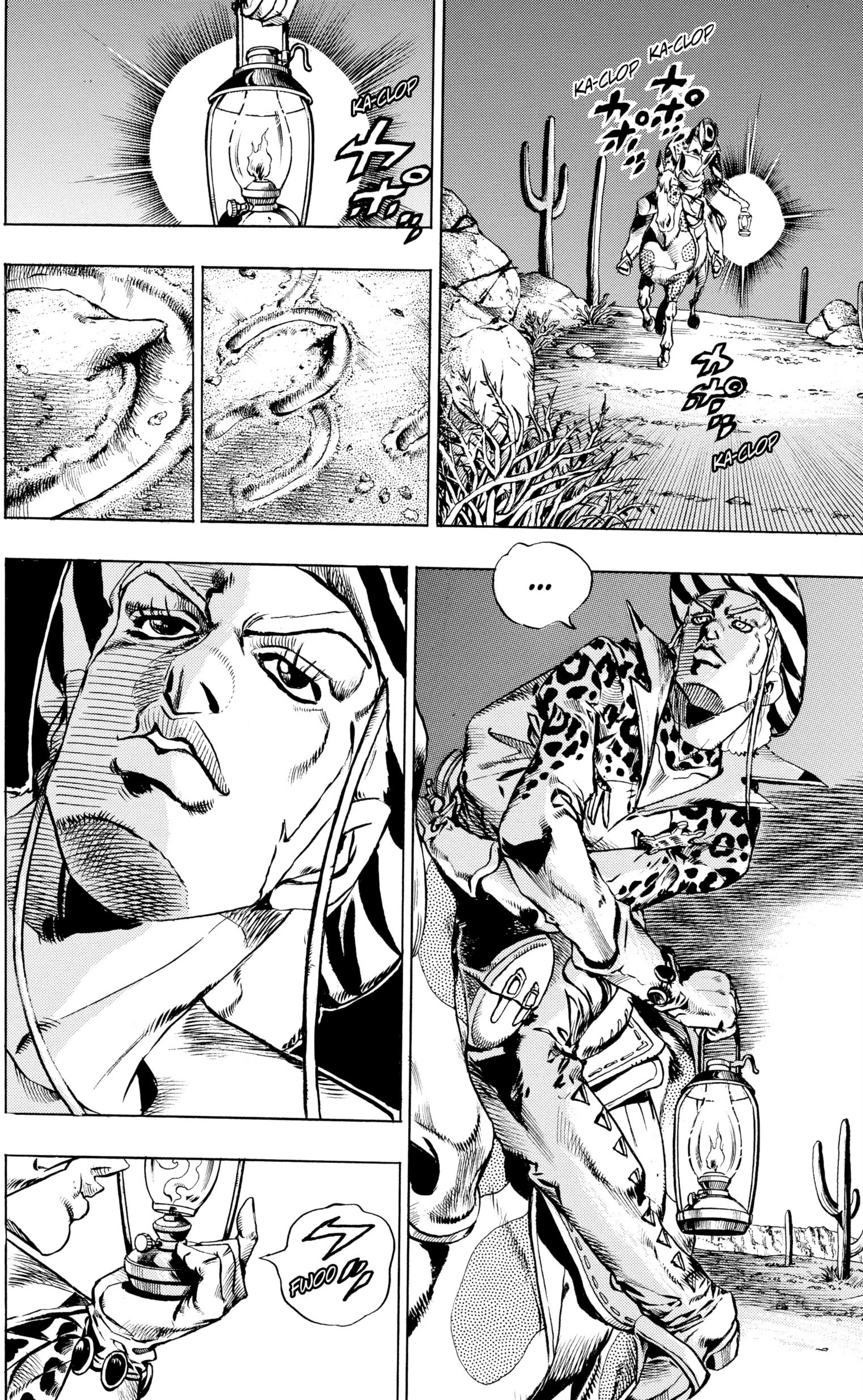

THAT'S RIGHT. WE'RE GONNA KILL 'EM!
WE'LL KILL THE BOTH OF 'EM.
WE'RE GONNA GET TO THAT WATERING HOLE 30 MILES AHEAD BEFORE ANYONE ELSE TOO.
AND ONCE WE DESTROY THE ONLY WATERING HOLE AROUND FOR MILES... THEN ALL THOSE OTHER RACERS BEHIND US...
...WON'T HAVE ANY WATER TO DRINK! THEY'LL ALL BE WIPED OUT!
EEE HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE!
HEH HEH HEH!
HEH HAW HAW HAW HAW HAW!
BUT HOW ARE WE GONNA CATCH UP WITH THOSE TWO?
EVERYONE SAYS THEY'RE TOP CONTENDERS NOW.
DIDN'T WE AMBUSH THEM BECAUSE PASSING 'EM WAS TOO HARD?

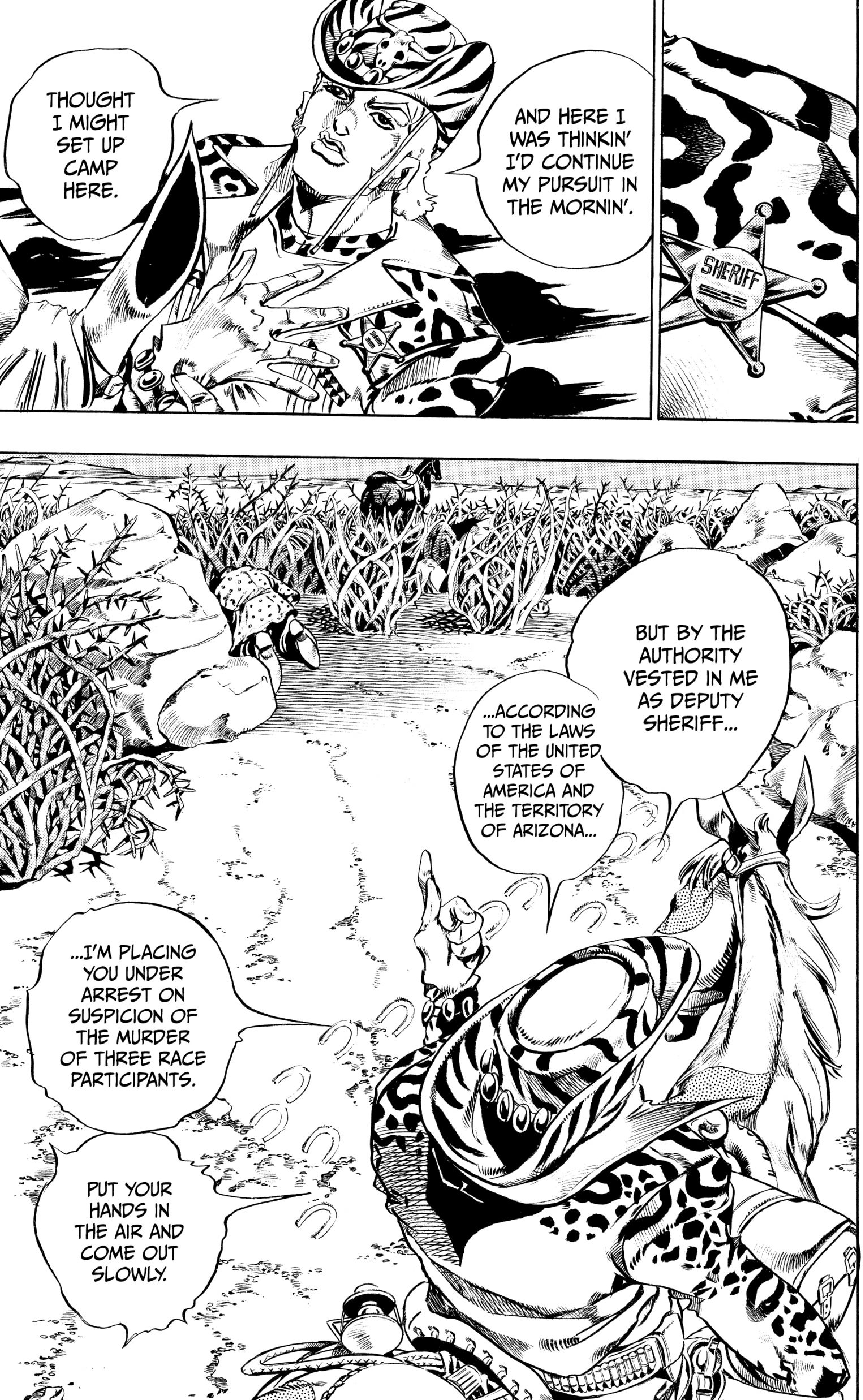

THERE IT IS AGAIN. THE FAMILY SMARTYPANTS HAS AN OPINION ON EVERYTHING.
SHIT FOR BRAINS!
WHO SAID THAT *WE* WERE GONNA CATCH THEM?
NAH, WE'RE GONNA LET *THAT GUY BEHIND US* CATCH UP WITH GYRO ZEPPELI AND JOHNNY JOESTAR. AND HE'S GONNA KILL THEM FOR US.
HUH?
BE-HIND US?
HAW!
WHO'S BEHIND US?
WHO IS IT?
THE GUY WHO'S BEEN FOLLOWIN' ME, THAT'S WHO!
OF THE 3,000 AND HOWEVER MANY PARTICIPANTS, ONE GUY PICKED OUT MY HORSE'S TRACKS. HE'S BEEN FOLLOWING ME SINCE THIS MORNING.
AND I KNOW ALL ABOUT IT!

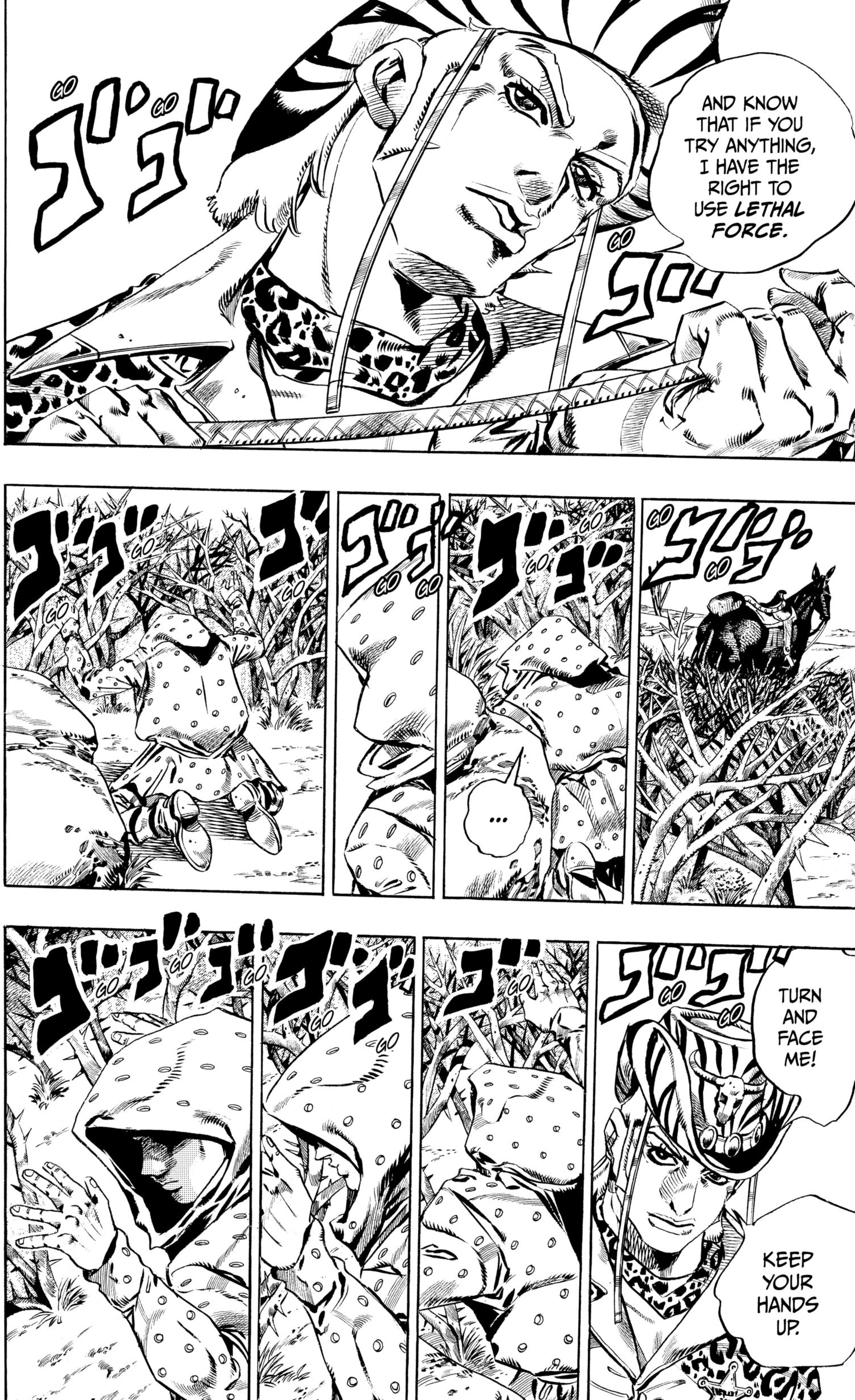

YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT YOUR HORSE'S HOOFPRINTS, PAPA?
SOMEONE WOULD DO THAT? WHO?
IT'S HARD TO SAY FOR SURE, BEIN' THIS FAR AHEAD, BUT...
I THINK IT'S EITHER THE SHERIFF... OR IT'S *MOUNTAIN TIM.*
THE SHERIFF AND HIM ARE GOOD PALS.
MOUNTAIN TIM?!
WOW! THE MAN WHO FINISHED FOURTH IN THE FIRST STAGE?! THAT COWBOY'S A HERO!
AND WE'RE GONNA USE THAT TO OUR ADVANTAGE!
SHLUP
SHLUP
SHLUP
RIGHT ALONG WITH OUR POWER TO CONTROL IRON!

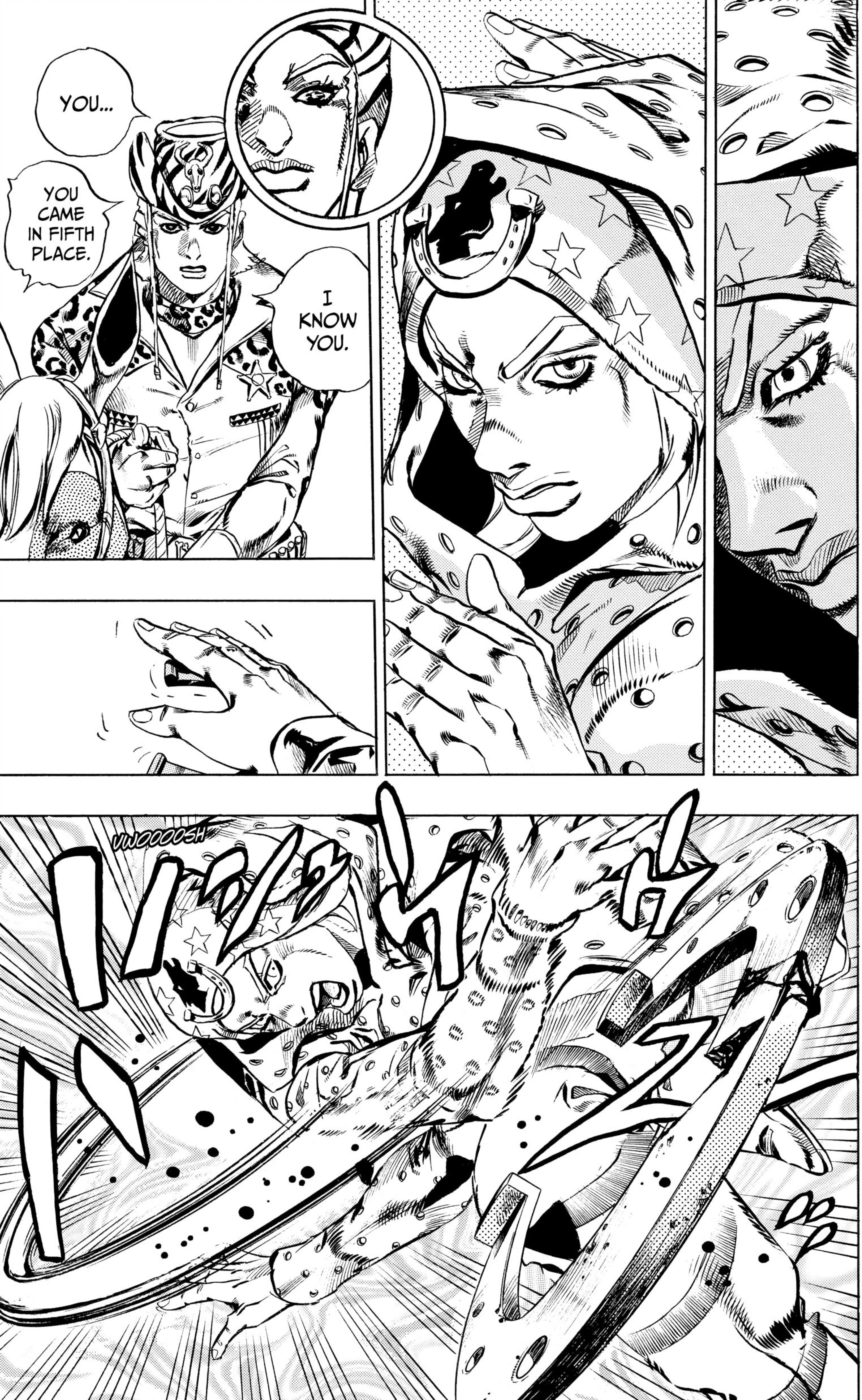

!
oooo
SHLUFFFF
BORGL
BORGL
BORGL
BORGL
BORGL
BORGL
YOU'RE... PUTTING IRON IN YOUR FACE... AND...AND RESHAPING IT?
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO TO MOUNTAIN TIM?
H-HOW ARE YOU GONNA USE HIM, PAPA?
HA HA! OHHHH, I KNOW WHAT POPS IS THINKIN'!
EEE HEE HEE HEE HEE!
AND IT'S GONNA WORK FOR SURE!

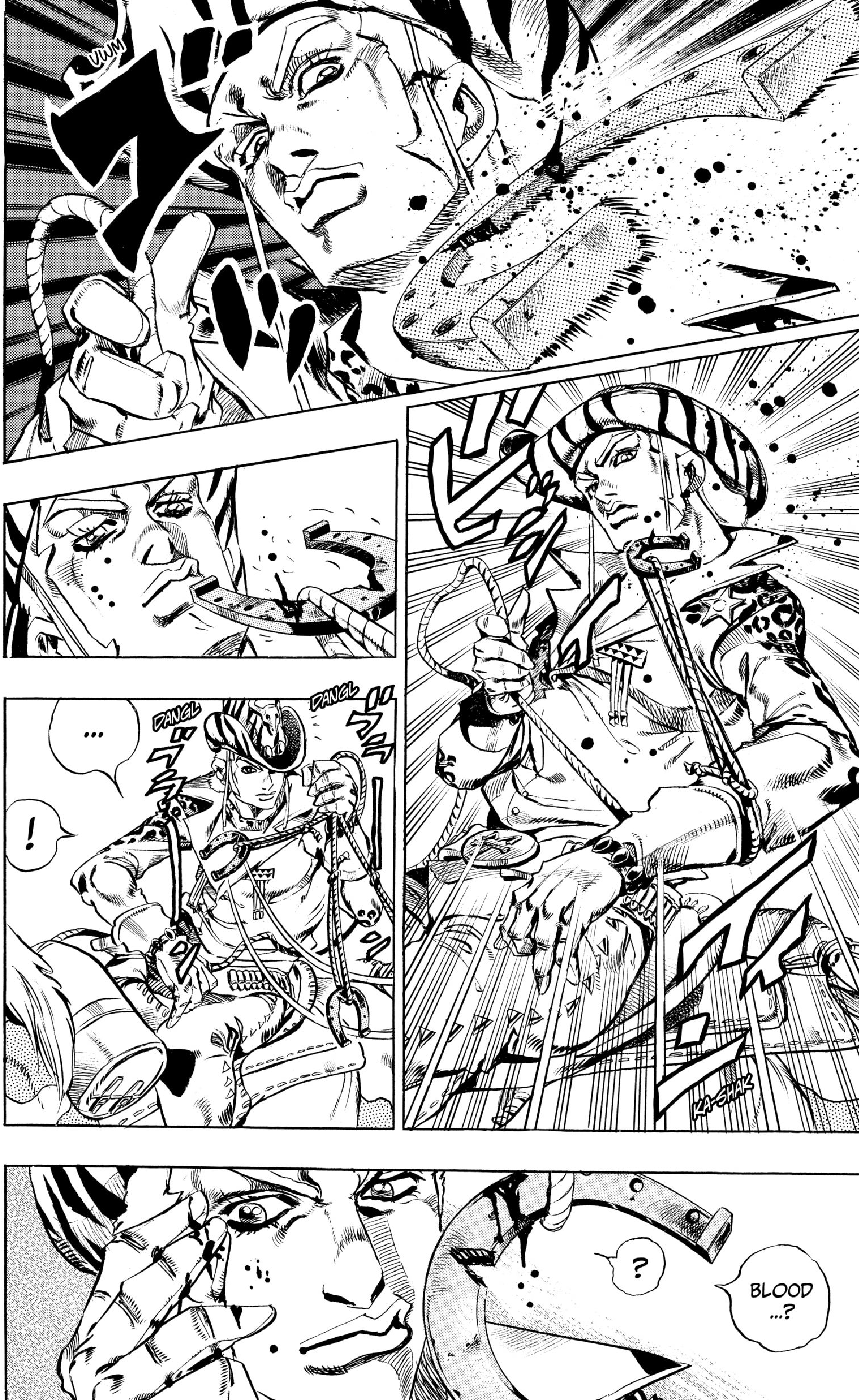
WHEN WE WENT LOOKIN' TO MINE THAT SO-CALLED "CURSED MOUNTAIN" SHUNNED BY THE LOCAL INDIANS, WE GAINED THIS POWER!
THE INDIANS SAID IT WOULD BRING MISFORTUNE, BUT WE AIN'T NEVER HAD IT BETTER!
KRK
KRK
KRK
KRK
KRK
KRK
KRK
WE'LL PUT DOWN ANYONE WHO GETS IN OUR WAY!!
SCHWUFF
NO ONE'S GETTING AHEAD OF THE BOOM-BOOM FAMILY!
DO
THWAAANG
SHAAAA

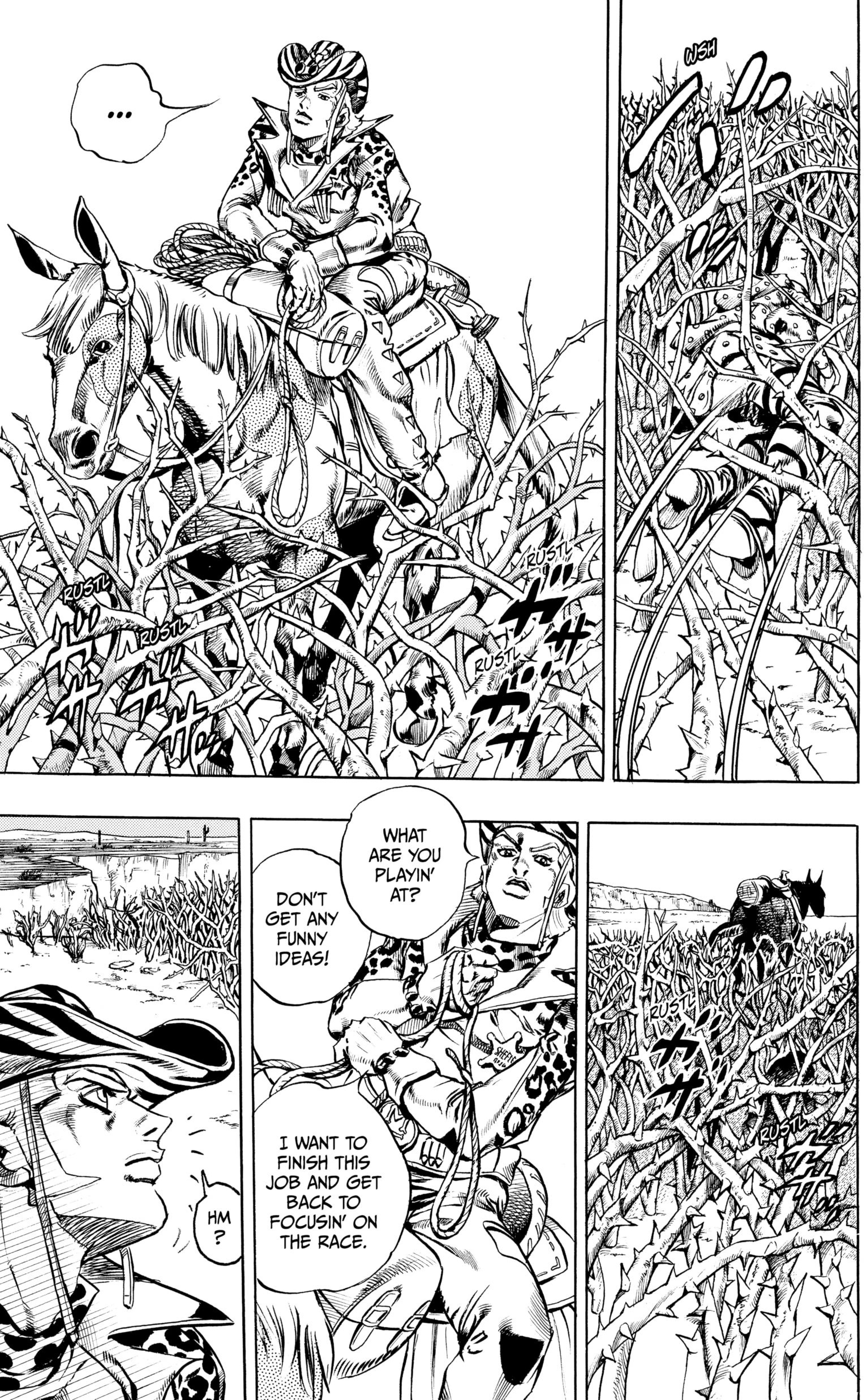

KA-CLOP KA-CLOP
カポッ
カポッ
KA-CLOP
カポッ
カポッ
KA-CLOP
...
FWOO

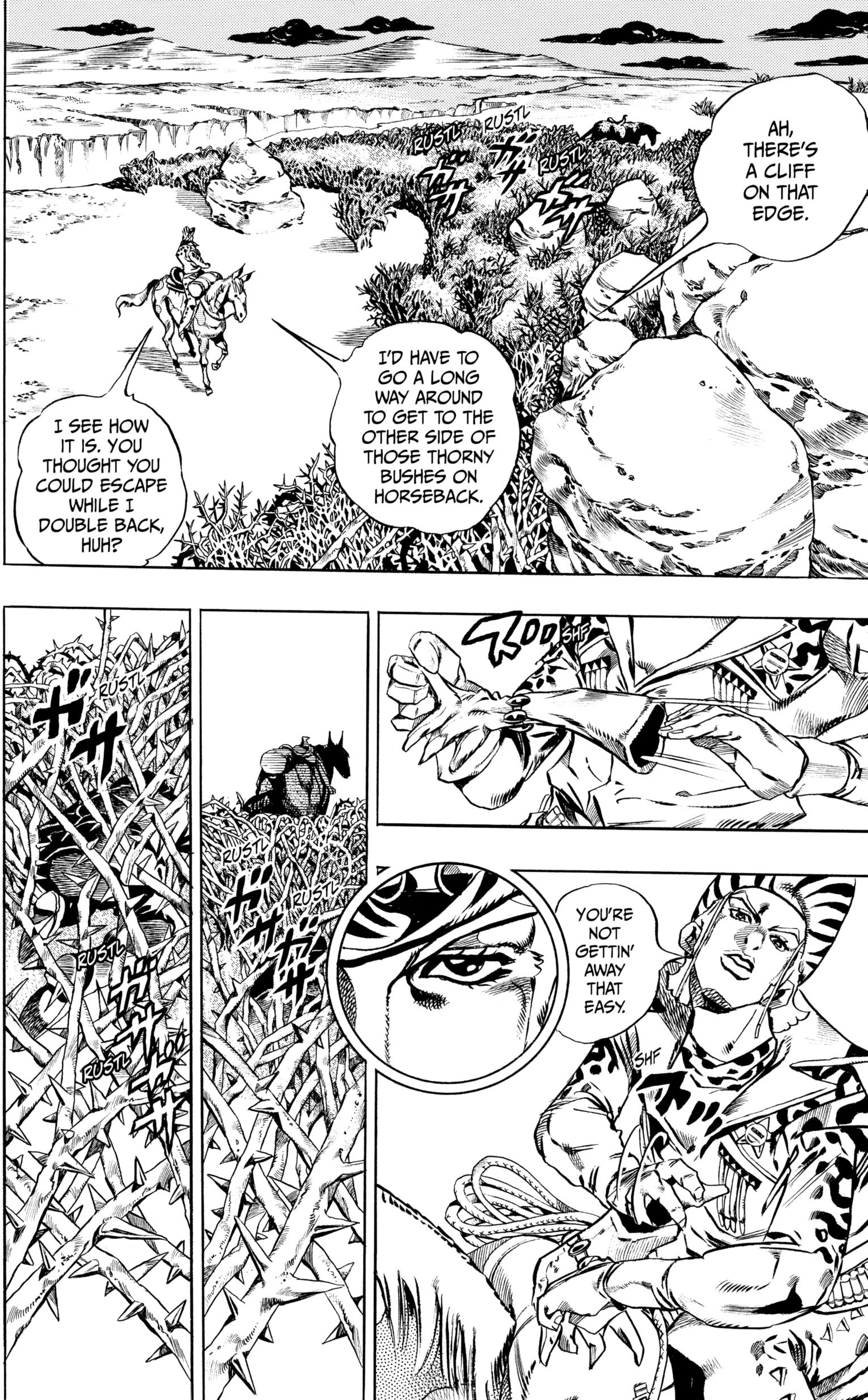

SHERIFF
AND HERE I WAS THINKIN' I'D CONTINUE MY PURSUIT IN THE MORNIN'.
THOUGHT I MIGHT SET UP CAMP HERE.
BUT BY THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME AS DEPUTY SHERIFF...
...ACCORDING TO THE LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE TERRITORY OF ARIZONA...
...I'M PLACING YOU UNDER ARREST ON SUSPICION OF THE MURDER OF THREE RACE PARTICIPANTS.
PUT YOUR HANDS IN THE AIR AND COME OUT SLOWLY.


GO GO
AND KNOW THAT IF YOU TRY ANYTHING, I HAVE THE RIGHT TO USE *LETHAL FORCE.*
GO
GO GO
GO
GO GO
...
GO GO
GO GO GO
GO GO
TURN AND FACE ME!
KEEP YOUR HANDS UP.
GO
GO GO
GO GO GO

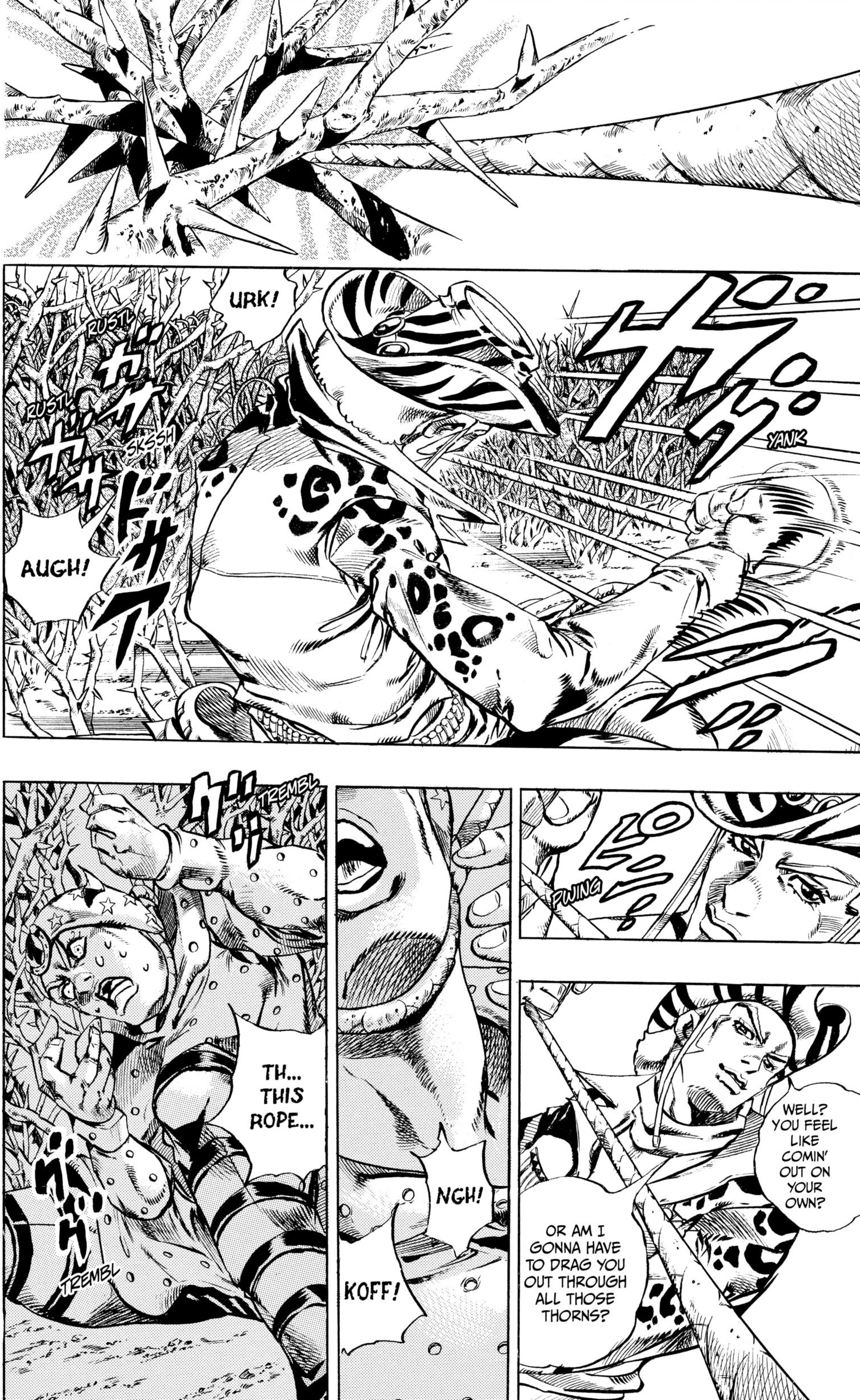

YOU...
I KNOW YOU.
YOU CAME IN FIFTH PLACE.
VWOOOOSH

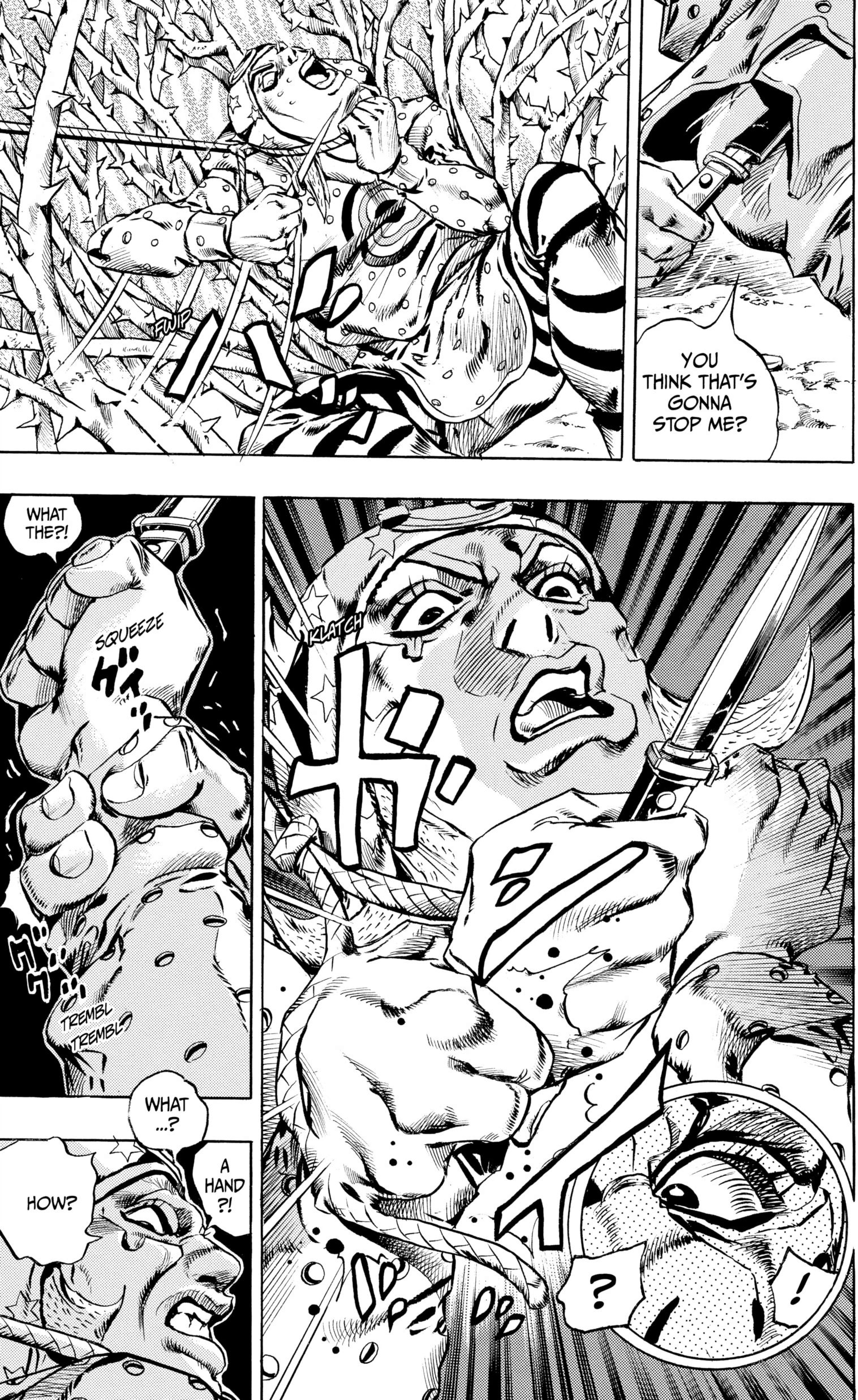

UWM
KA-SHAK
DANGL
DANGL
...
!
BLOOD ...?
?

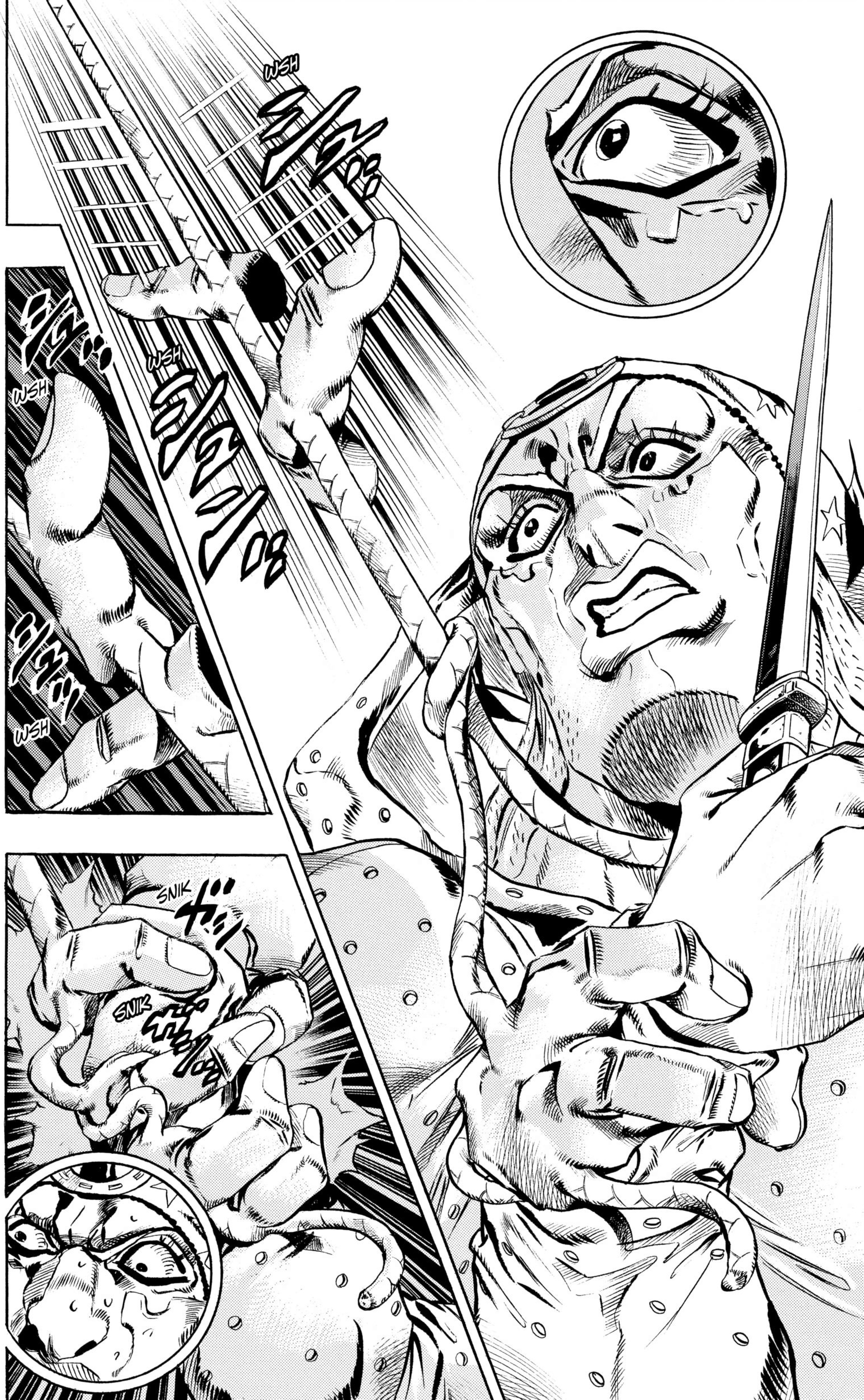

WSH
...
RUSTL
RUSTL
RUSTL
RUSTL
RUSTL
RUSTL
WHAT ARE YOU PLAYIN' AT?
DON'T GET ANY FUNNY IDEAS!
I WANT TO FINISH THIS JOB AND GET BACK TO FOCUSIN' ON THE RACE.
HM?

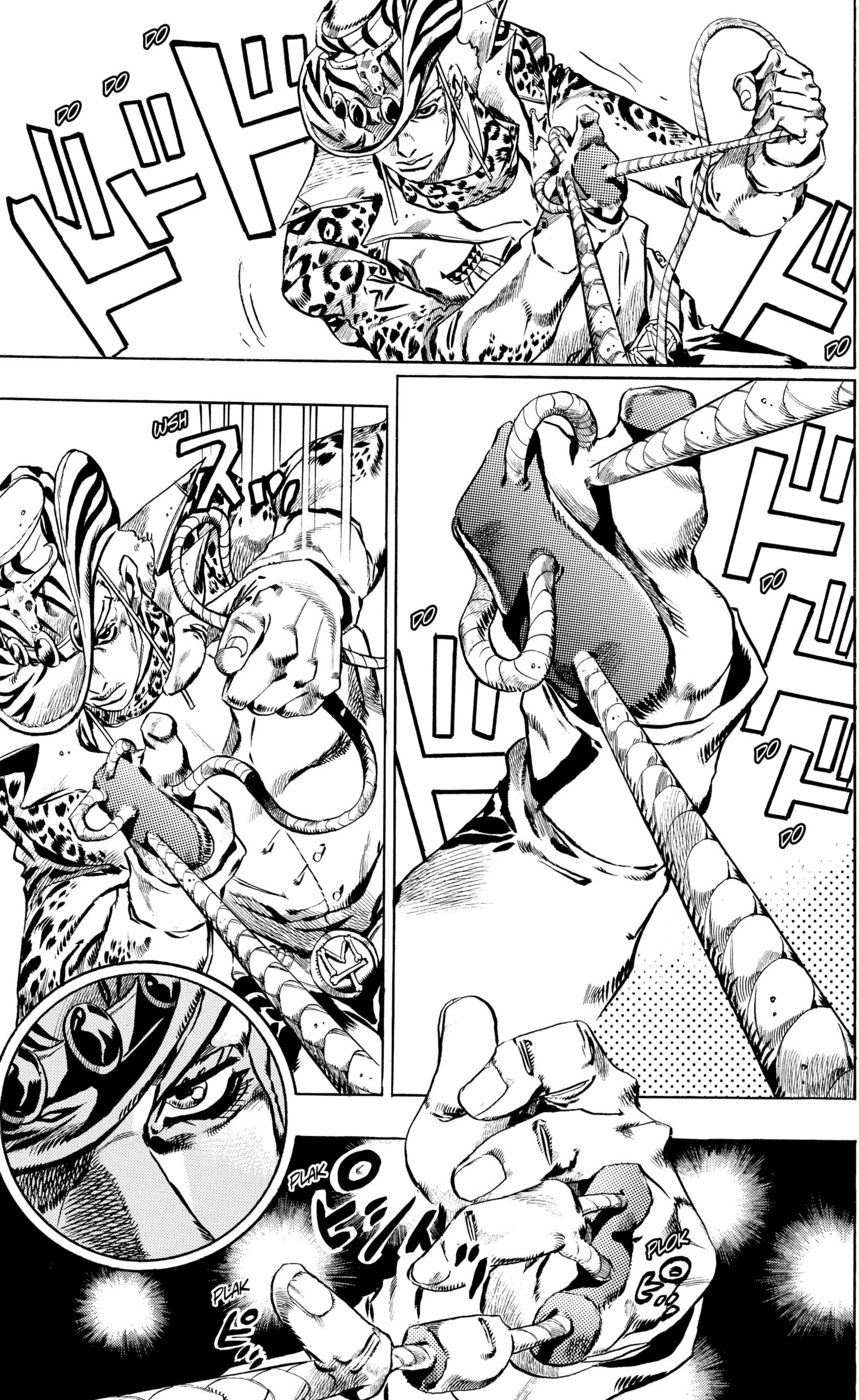

AH, THERE'S A CLIFF ON THAT EDGE.
RUSTL
RUSTL
RUSTL
I'D HAVE TO GO A LONG WAY AROUND TO GET TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THOSE THORNY BUSHES ON HORSEBACK.
I SEE HOW IT IS. YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD ESCAPE WHILE I DOUBLE BACK, HUH?
SHF
YOU'RE NOT GETTIN' AWAY THAT EASY.
SHF
RUSTL
RUSTL
RUSTL
RUSTL
RUSTL

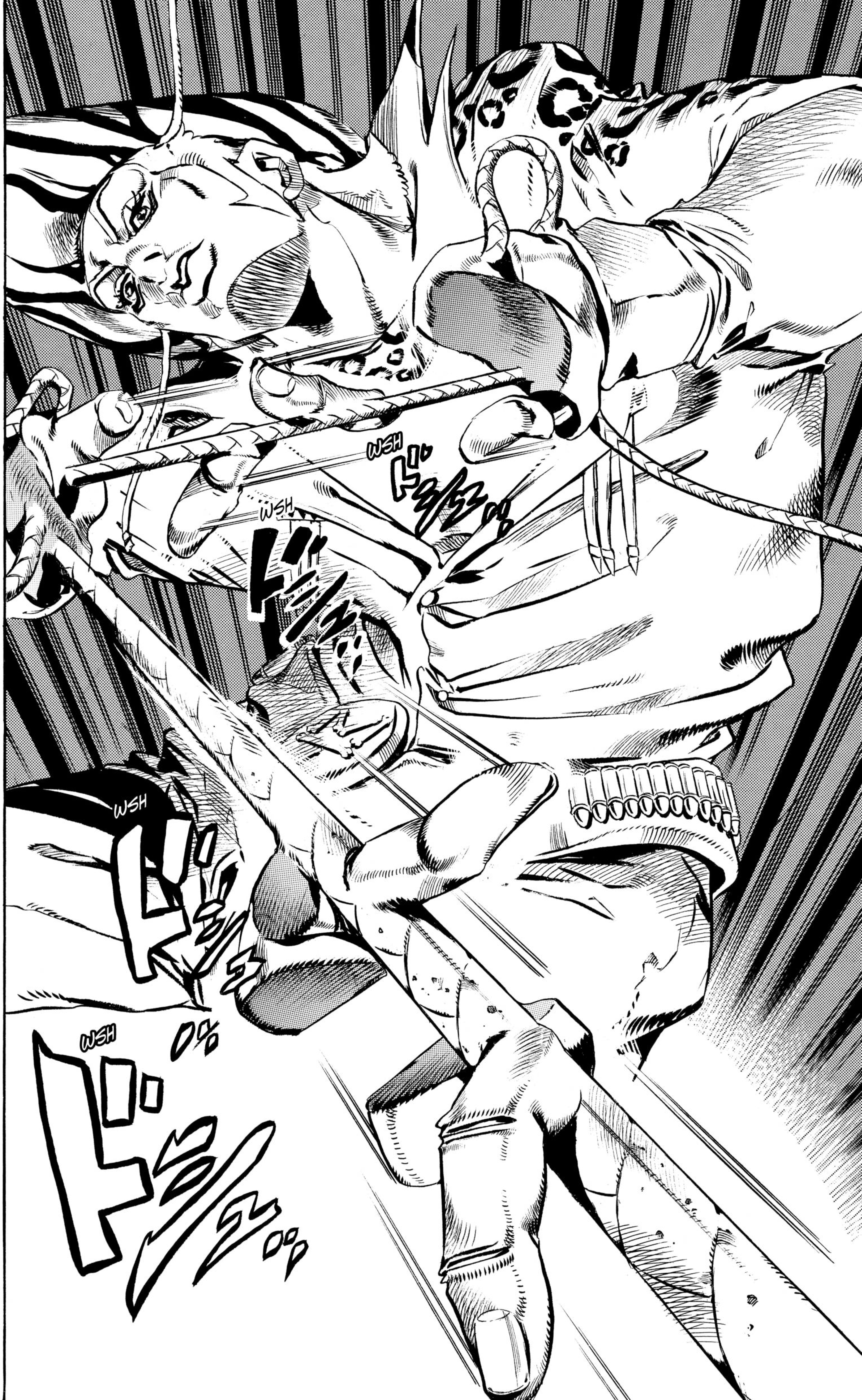
VWOOOOOSH

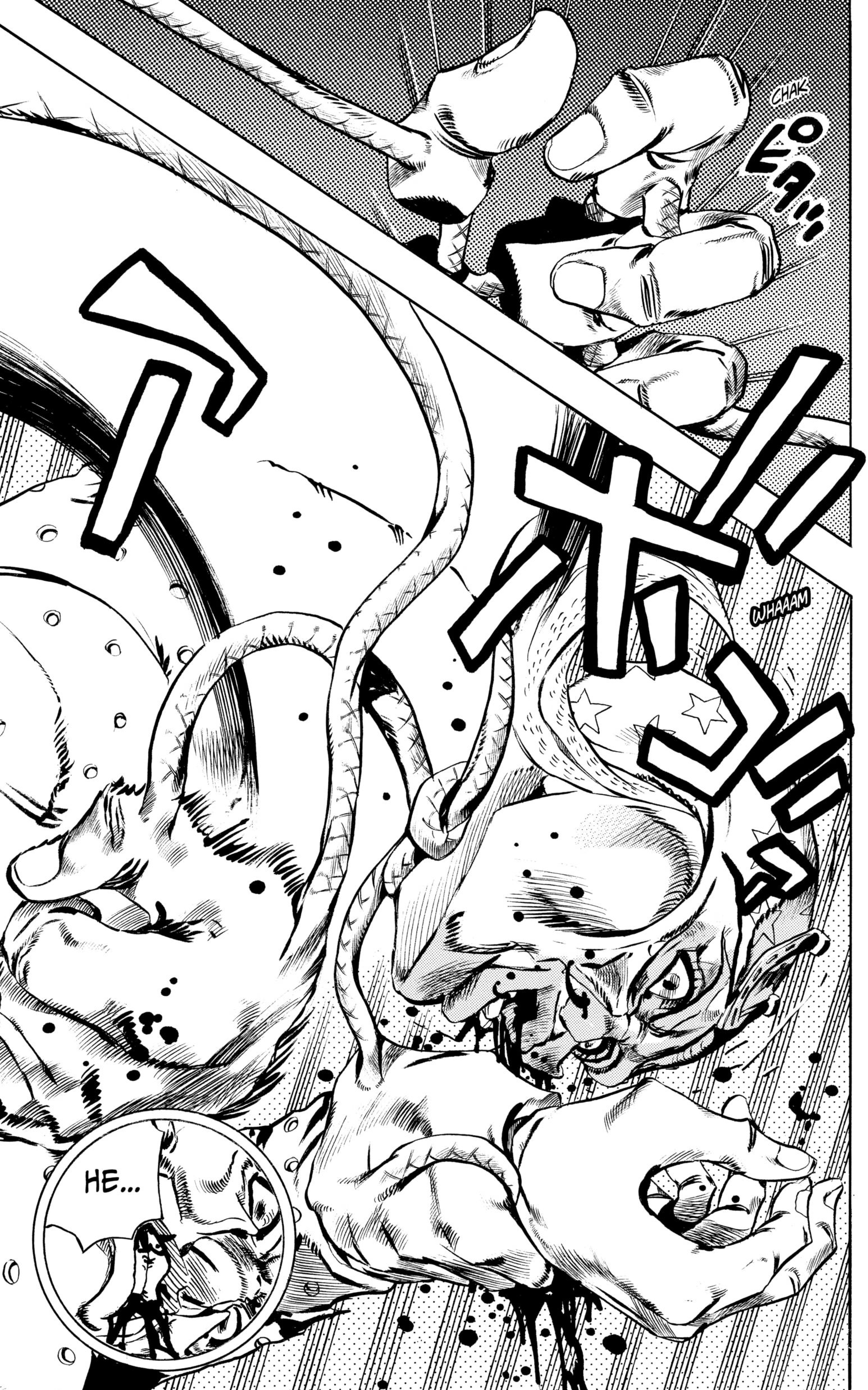

YANK
URK!
RUSTL
RUSTL
SKSSH
ドサァ
AUGH!
PWING
TREMBL
TH... THIS ROPE...
TREMBL
NGH!
KOFF!
WELL? YOU FEEL LIKE COMIN' OUT ON YOUR OWN?
OR AM I GONNA HAVE TO DRAG YOU OUT THROUGH ALL THOSE THORNS?

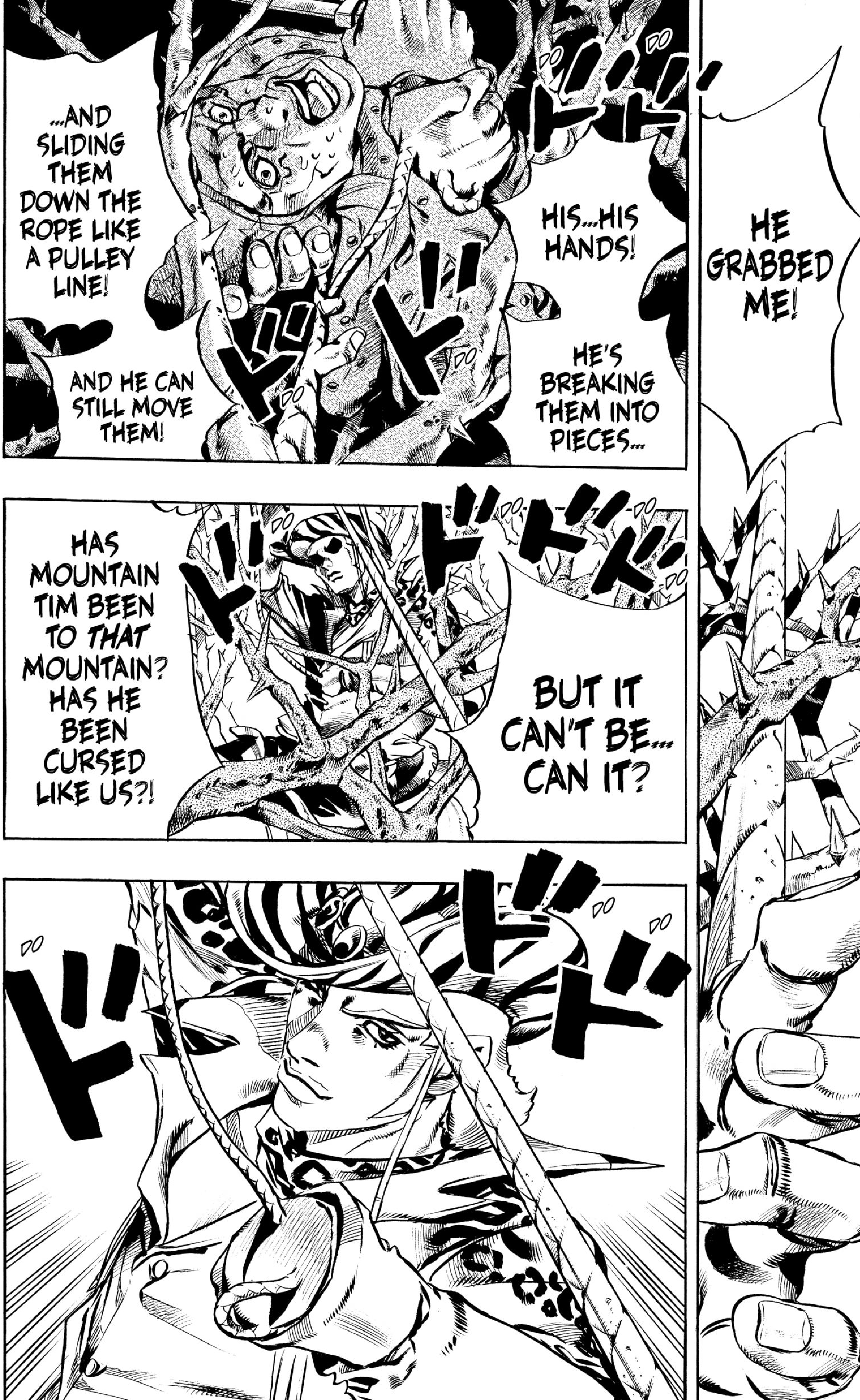

YOU THINK THAT'S GONNA STOP ME?
FWIP
KLATCH
ギュ
?
!
WHAT THE?!
SQUEEZE
グイッ
ググ…
TREMBL TREMBL
WHAT ...?
A HAND ?!
HOW?

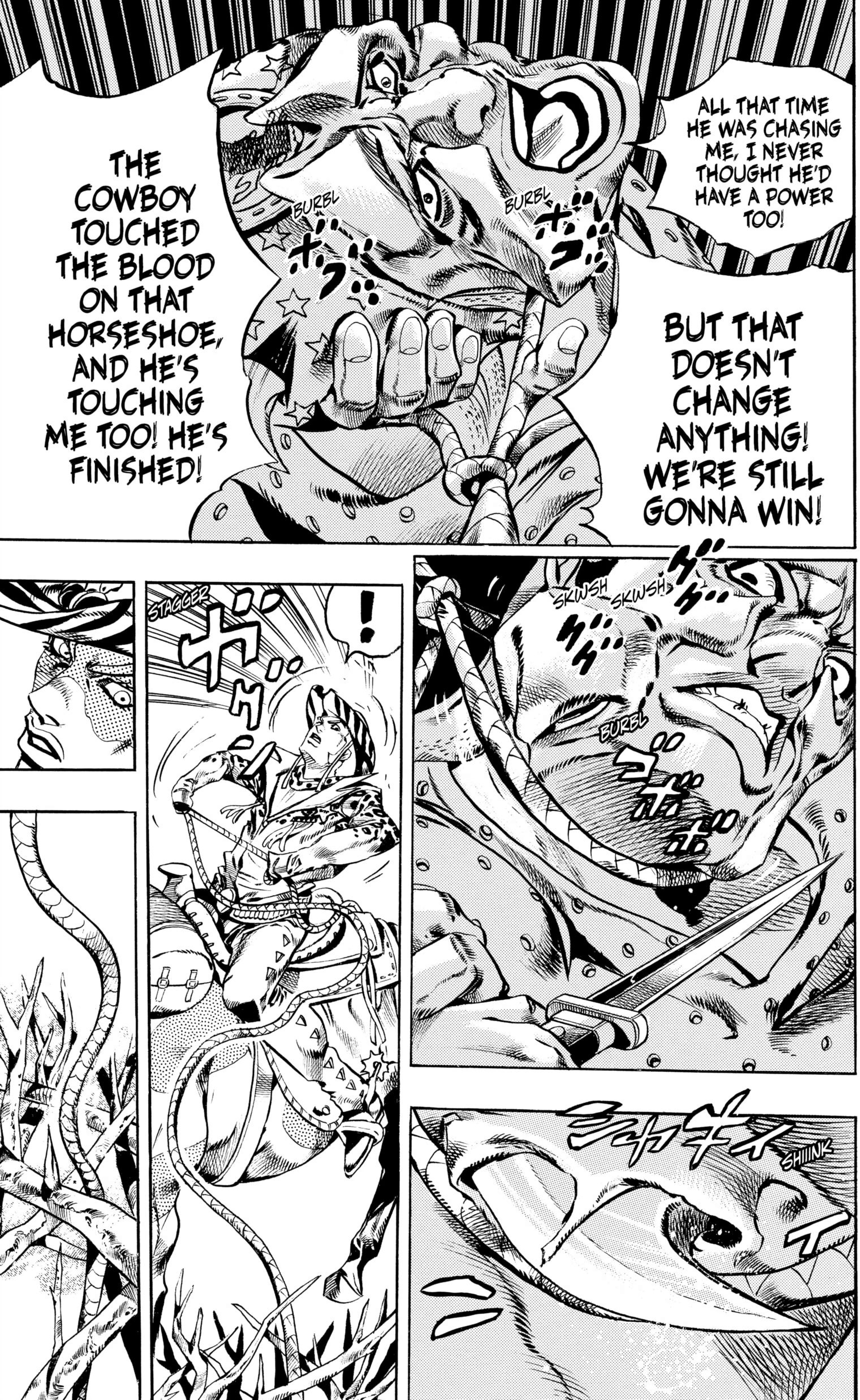

WSH
WSH
WSH
WSH
SNIK
SNIK

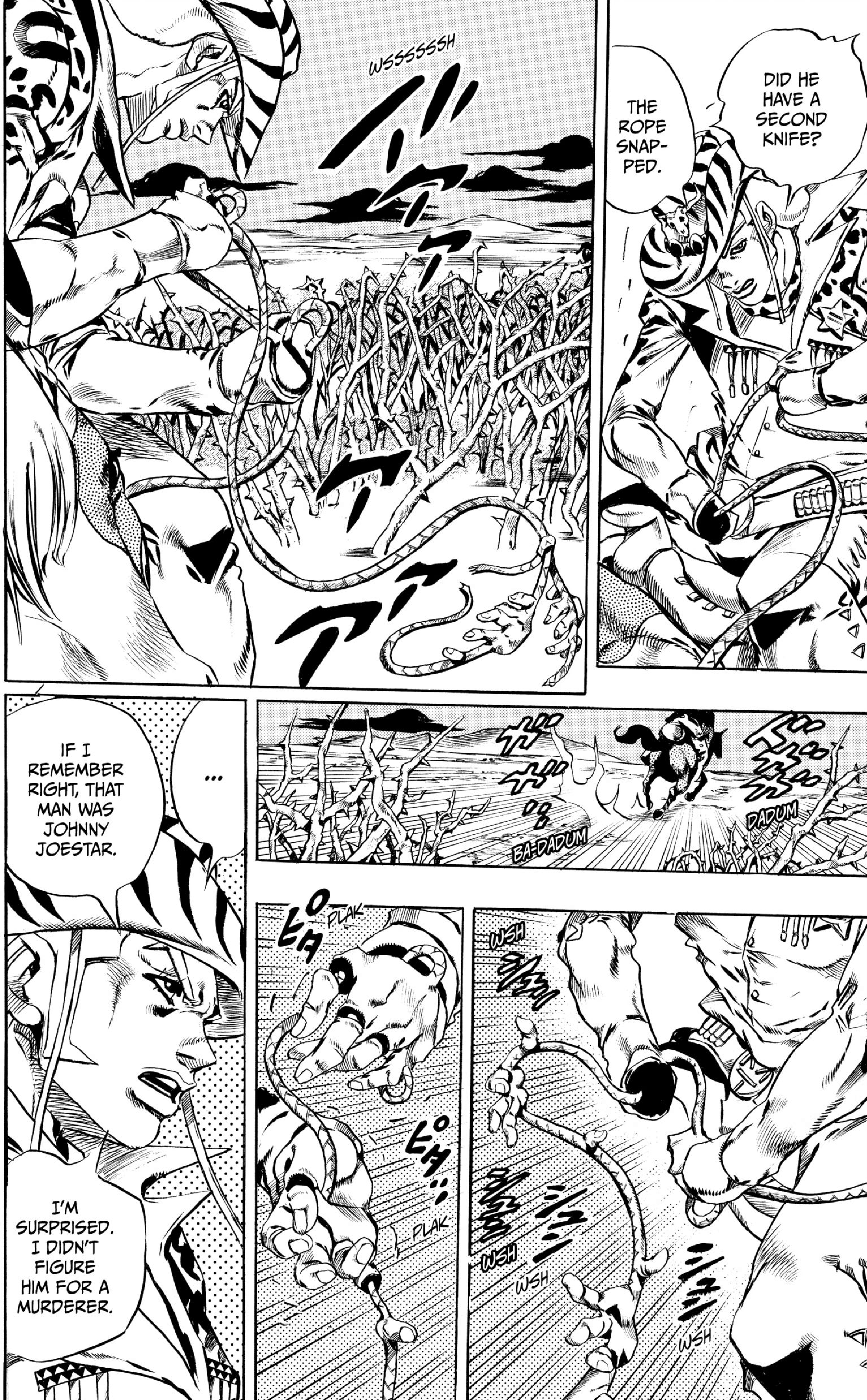

ドドドド
DO DO DO DO
ド
DO
ドドドド
DO DO DO DO
スッ
WSH
ピシィッ
PLAK
ぽっぽっ
PLOK
ピシッ
PLAK

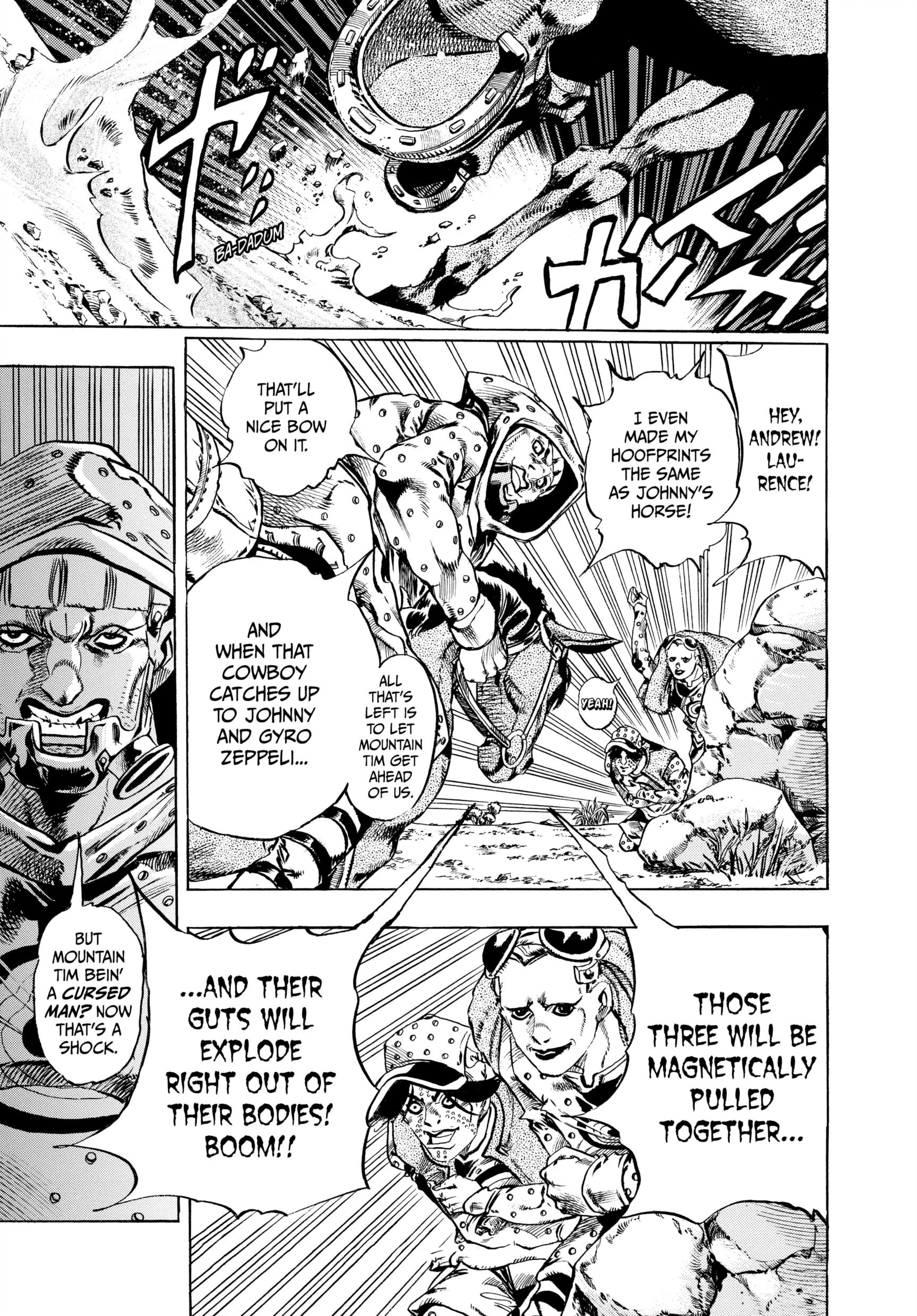

WSH
ドドドド
WSH
ドドドド
WSH
ドドドド
WSH
ドドドド

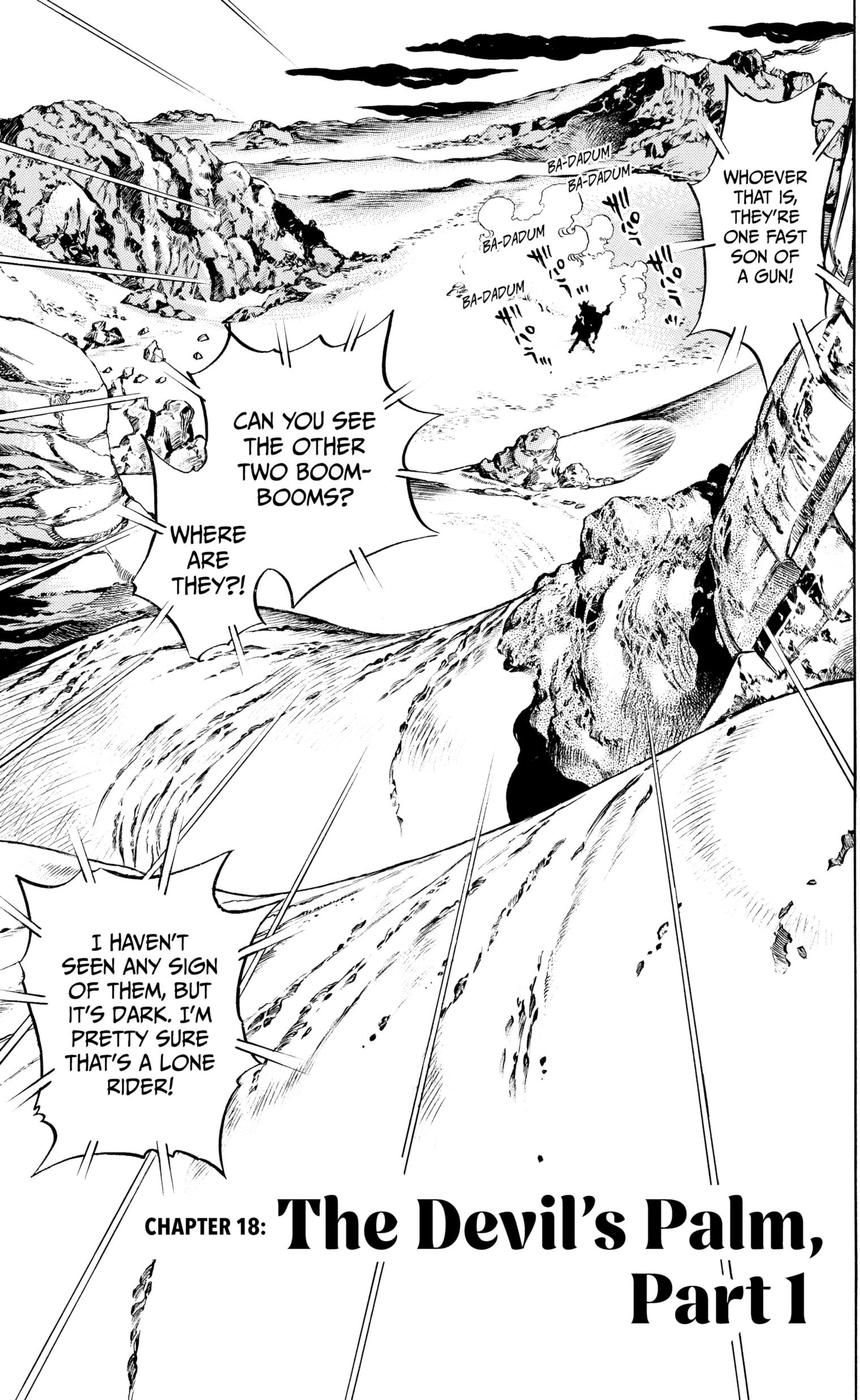

CHAK
ピタ…
アボン
WHAAAM
HE...


HE GRABBED ME!
DO DO
ドドド
HIS...HIS HANDS!
HE'S BREAKING THEM INTO PIECES...
...AND SLIDING THEM DOWN THE ROPE LIKE A PULLEY LINE!
AND HE CAN STILL MOVE THEM!
ドド
DO DO
ドドドド
DO DO DO DO
BUT IT CAN'T BE... CAN IT?
HAS MOUNTAIN TIM BEEN TO *THAT* MOUNTAIN? HAS HE BEEN CURSED LIKE US?!
ドドドド
DO DO DO
ドド
DO


ALL THAT TIME HE WAS CHASING ME, I NEVER THOUGHT HE'D HAVE A POWER TOO!
BURBL
BURBL
THE COWBOY TOUCHED THE BLOOD ON THAT HORSESHOE, AND HE'S TOUCHING ME TOO! HE'S FINISHED!
BUT THAT DOESN'T CHANGE ANYTHING! WE'RE STILL GONNA WIN!
SKWSH
SKWSH
BURBL
!
STAGGER
SHIIINK

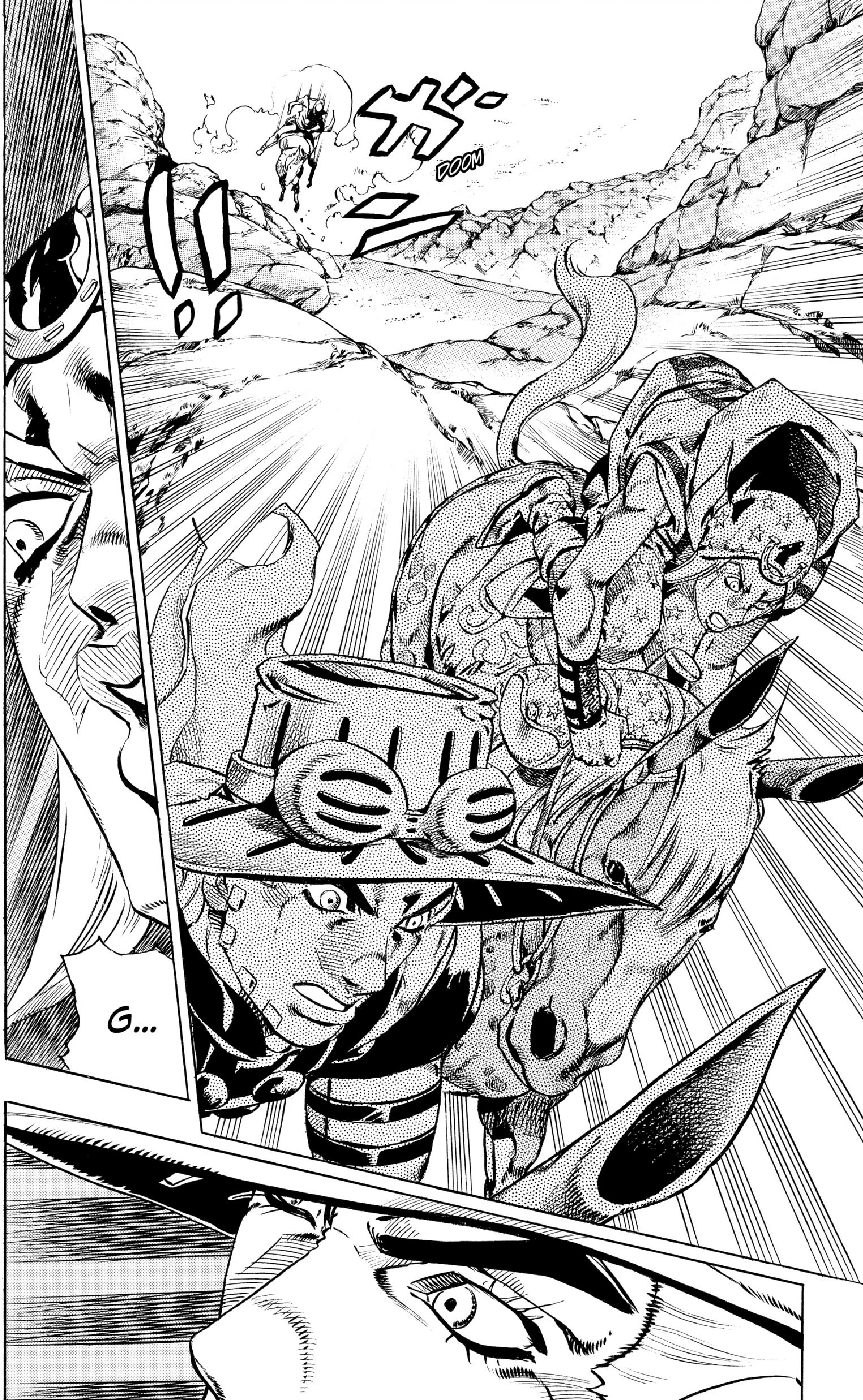

DID HE HAVE A SECOND KNIFE?
THE ROPE SNAPPED.
WSSSSSSH
DADUM
BA-DADUM
...
IF I REMEMBER RIGHT, THAT MAN WAS JOHNNY JOESTAR.
WSH
WSH
WSH
WSH
PLAK
PLAK
I'M SURPRISED. I DIDN'T FIGURE HIM FOR A MURDERER.

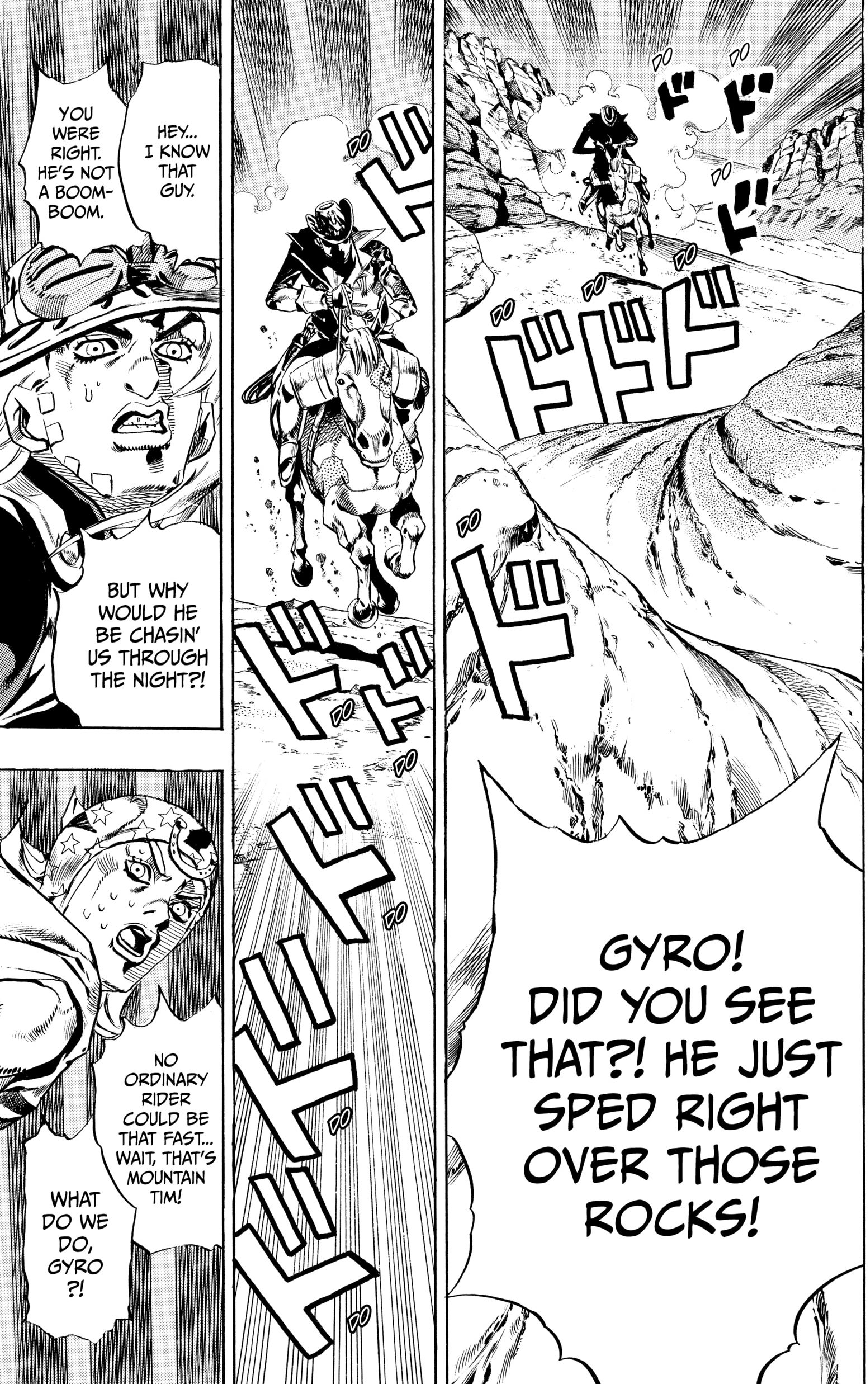

BA-DADUM
HEY, ANDREW! LAURENCE!
I EVEN MADE MY HOOFPRINTS THE SAME AS JOHNNY'S HORSE!
THAT'LL PUT A NICE BOW ON IT.
YEAH!
ALL THAT'S LEFT IS TO LET MOUNTAIN TIM GET AHEAD OF US.
AND WHEN THAT COWBOY CATCHES UP TO JOHNNY AND GYRO ZEPPELI...
BUT MOUNTAIN TIM BEIN' A *CURSED MAN?* NOW THAT'S A SHOCK.
THOSE THREE WILL BE MAGNETICALLY PULLED TOGETHER...
...AND THEIR GUTS WILL EXPLODE RIGHT OUT OF THEIR BODIES! BOOM!!

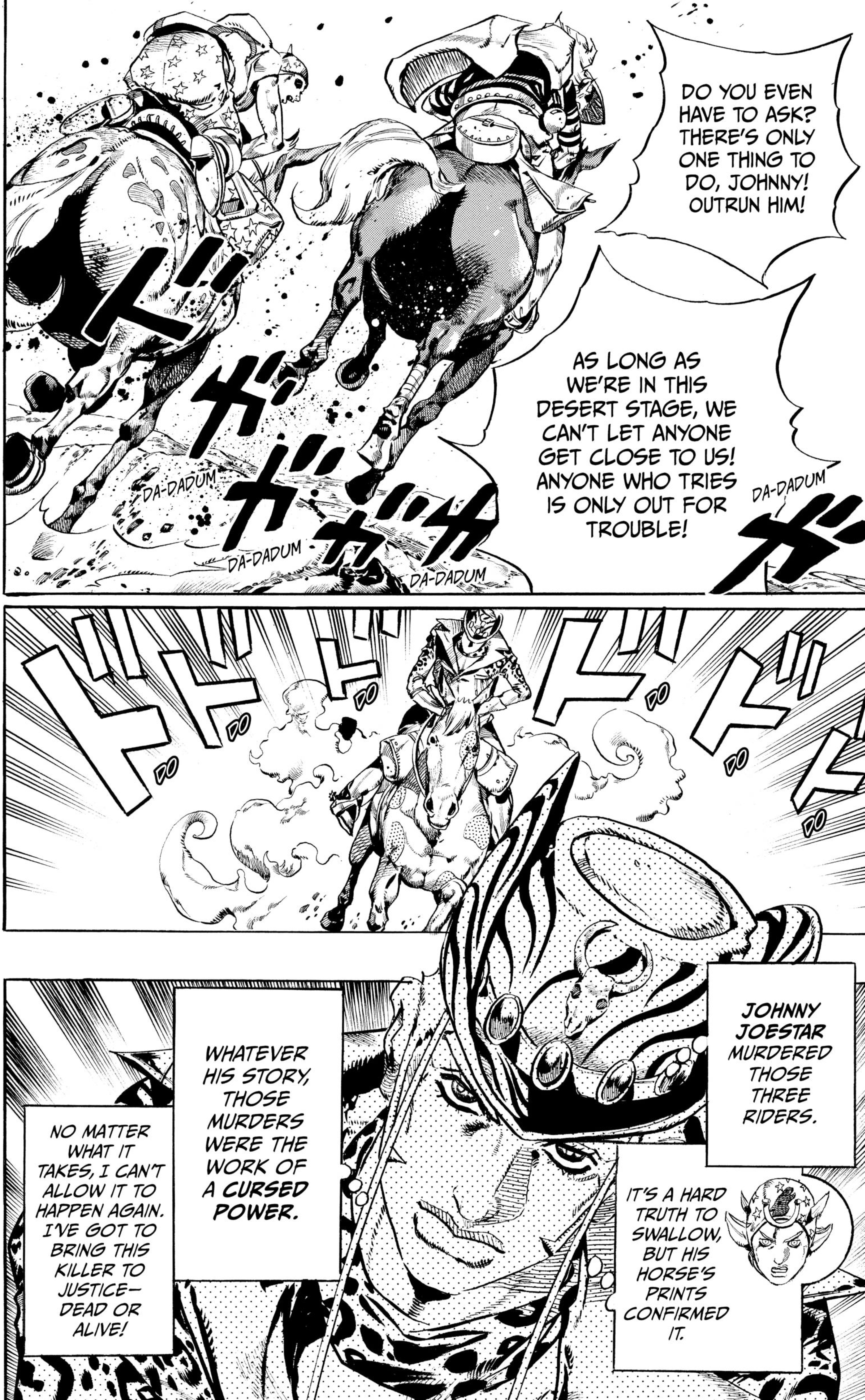

WHOEVER THAT IS, THEY'RE ONE FAST SON OF A GUN!
BA-DADUM
BA-DADUM
BA-DADUM
BA-DADUM
CAN YOU SEE THE OTHER TWO BOOM-BOOMS?
WHERE ARE THEY?!
I HAVEN'T SEEN ANY SIGN OF THEM, BUT IT'S DARK. I'M PRETTY SURE THAT'S A LONE RIDER!

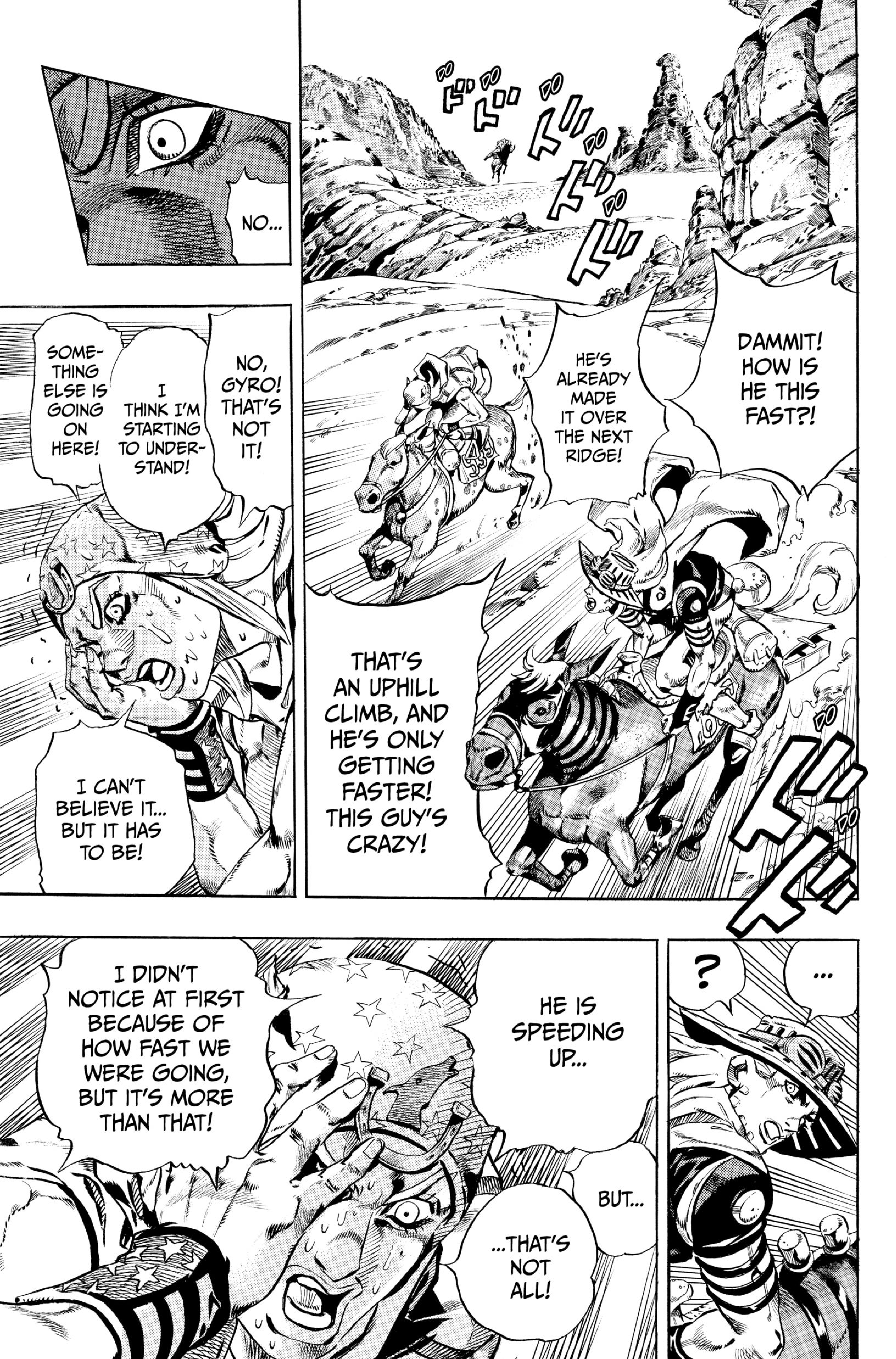
CHAPTER 18: The Devil's Palm, Part 1

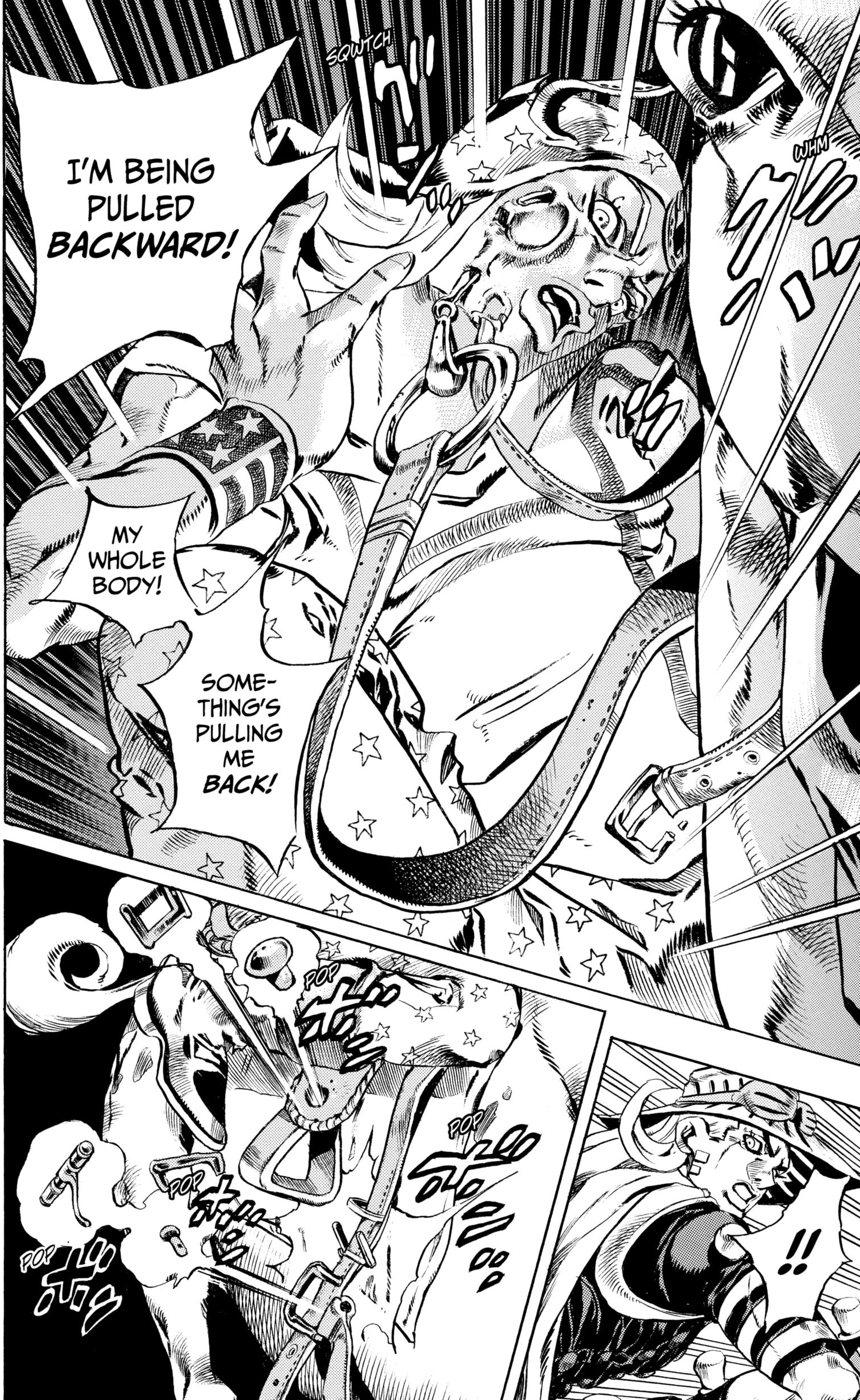
ISN'T THAT BASTARD EVER GOING TO SLOW DOWN?!
WE'VE BEEN GOIN' LIKE THIS FOR THREE HOURS!
BA-DADUM
BA-DADUM
ANY ONE OF OUR HORSES COULD GIVE OUT AT ANY MOMENT!
BA-DADUM
BA-DADUM
BA-DADUM
BA-DADUM
ARE WE EVEN SURE IT'S ONE OF THE BOOM-BOOMS?
SOME-THING'S NOT ADDING UP. WHO IS THAT GUY, ANYWAY?
I DIDN'T THINK ANY OF THEM WERE THIS GOOD AT RIDING A HORSE. DON'T REMEMBER A STRANGE HAT LIKE THAT EITHER...
BA-DADUM
BA-DADUM
WELL, WHO THE HELL ELSE WOULD BE CHASIN' US?
LEAST OF ALL IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT!
I FEEL LIKE I'VE SEEN THAT HAT BEFORE.
DA-DUM
IN ANY CASE, IF THEY GET CLOSE TO US, THAT IRON MAGNETISM CRAP WILL START BACK UP AGAIN!
DA-DUM
WE HAVE TO GET TO THE NEXT WATERING HOLE BEFORE THEM, OR ELSE THINGS ARE GONNA GET REAL MESSY!
DUM
DAMN IT ALL! WE'RE ONLY TEN MILES AWAY!

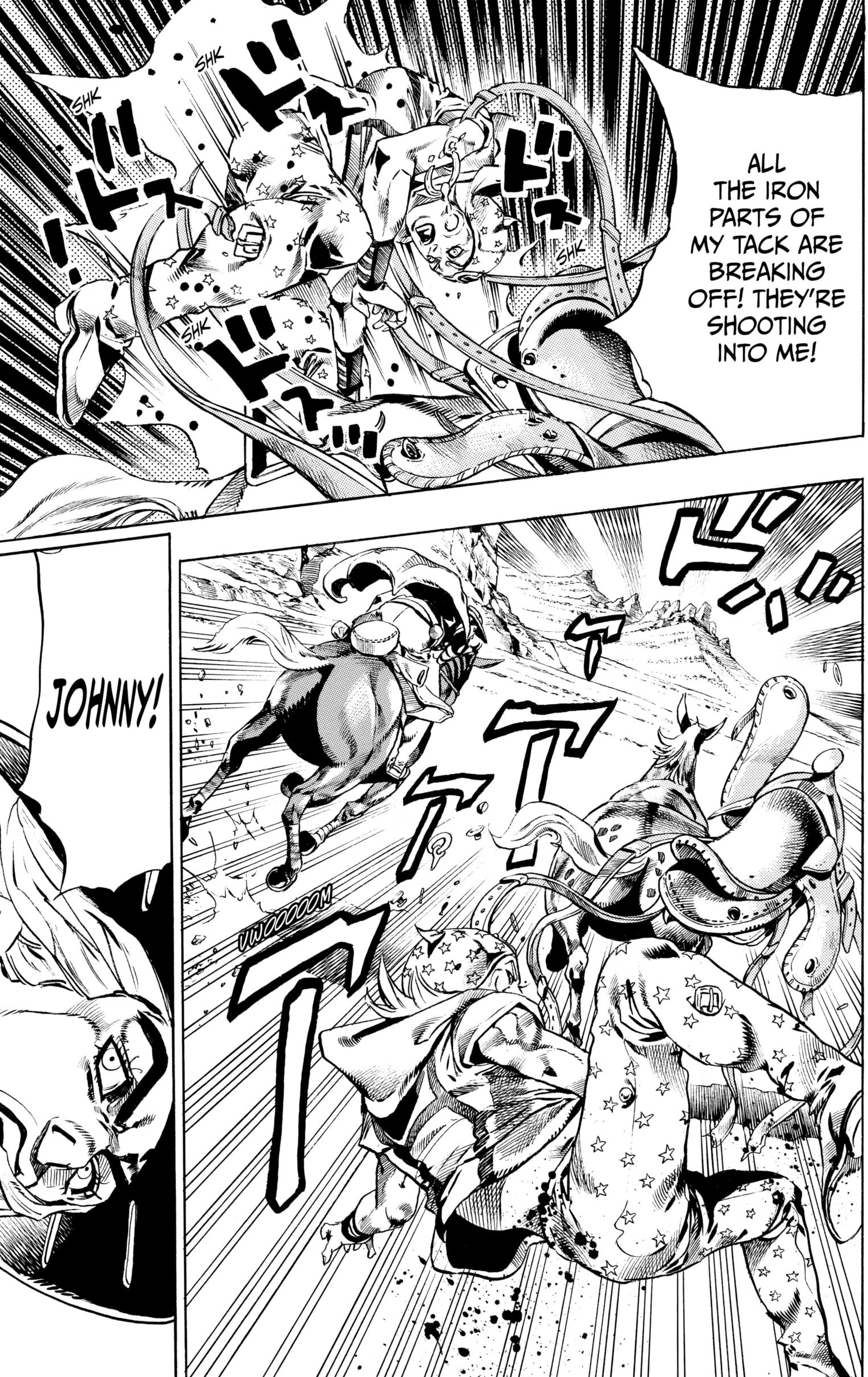

DOOM
G...

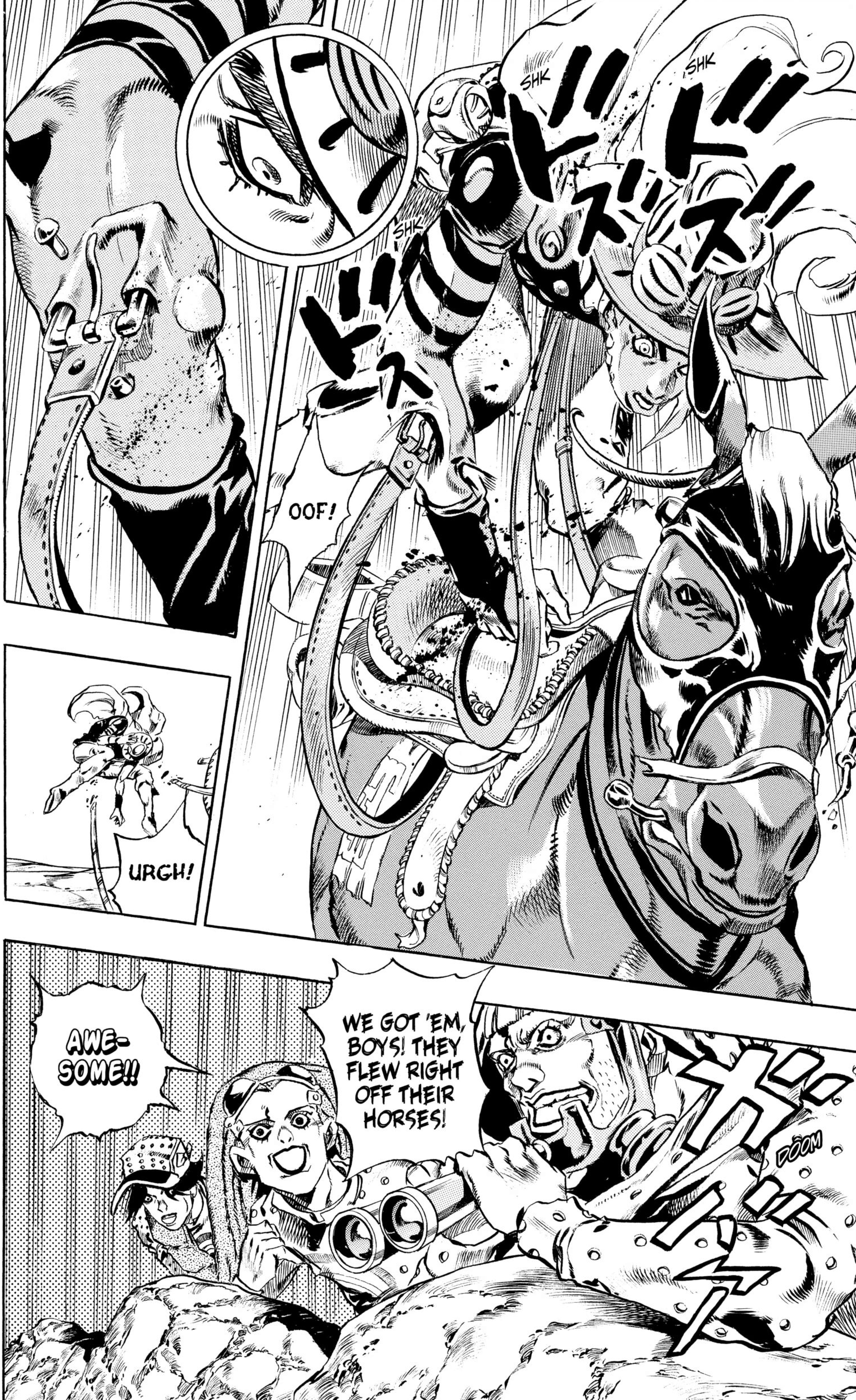

DO DO ドド
DO ド
DO DO DO ドドド
DO ド
GYRO! DID YOU SEE THAT?! HE JUST SPED RIGHT OVER THOSE ROCKS!
DO ド
DO ド DO ド
DO ド DO ド DO ド DO ド
HEY… I KNOW THAT GUY.
YOU WERE RIGHT. HE'S NOT A BOOM-BOOM.
BUT WHY WOULD HE BE CHASIN' US THROUGH THE NIGHT?!
NO ORDINARY RIDER COULD BE THAT FAST… WAIT, THAT'S MOUNTAIN TIM!
WHAT DO WE DO, GYRO?!

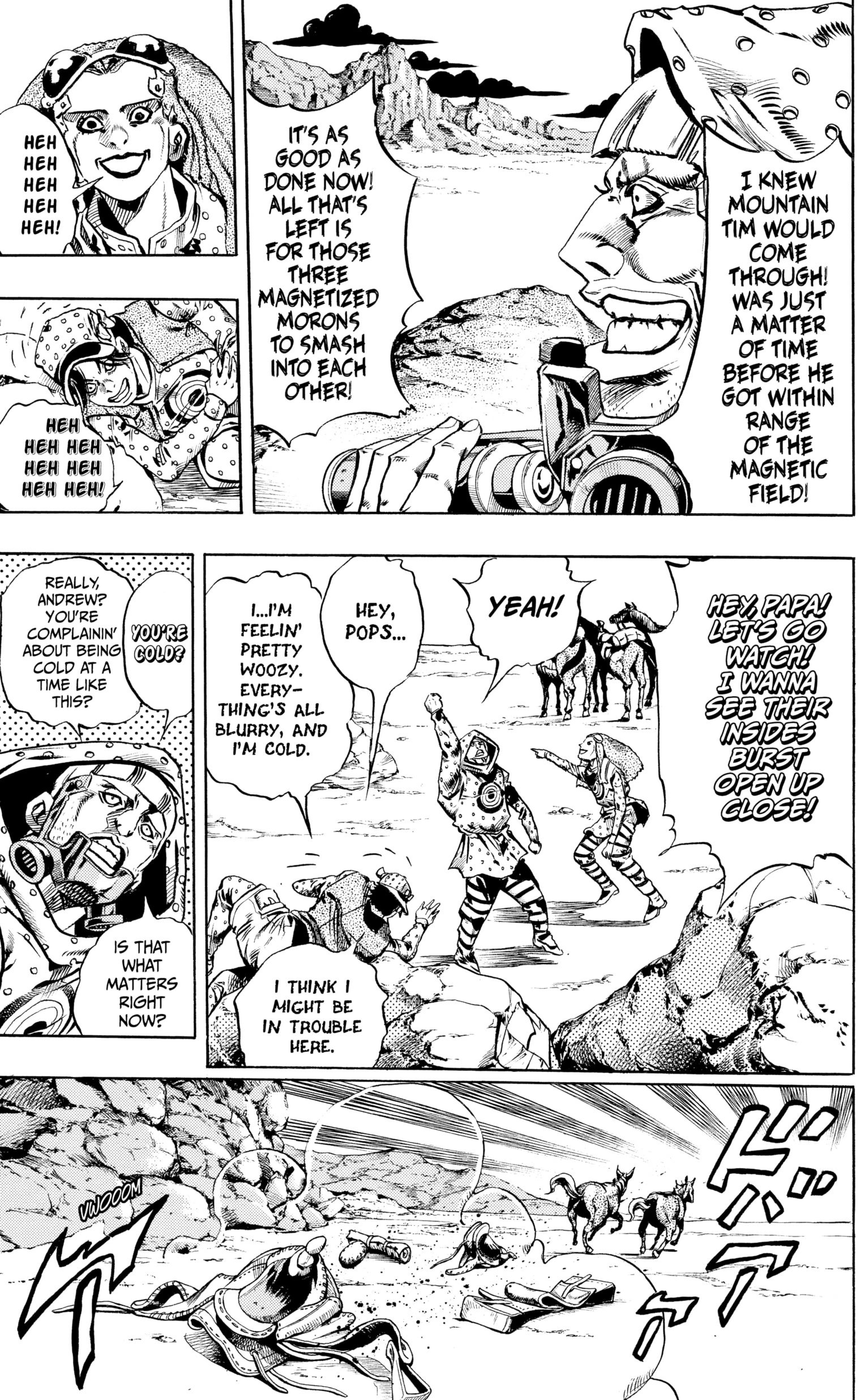

DO YOU EVEN HAVE TO ASK? THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO, JOHNNY! OUTRUN HIM!
AS LONG AS WE'RE IN THIS DESERT STAGE, WE CAN'T LET ANYONE GET CLOSE TO US! ANYONE WHO TRIES IS ONLY OUT FOR TROUBLE!
ガ
DA-DADUM
ドド
ガガガッガ
DA-DADUM
DA-DADUM
DA-DADUM
ドドドドドドドド
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO
JOHNNY JOESTAR MURDERED THOSE THREE RIDERS.
IT'S A HARD TRUTH TO SWALLOW, BUT HIS HORSE'S PRINTS CONFIRMED IT.
WHATEVER HIS STORY, THOSE MURDERS WERE THE WORK OF A CURSED POWER.
NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES, I CAN'T ALLOW IT TO HAPPEN AGAIN. I'VE GOT TO BRING THIS KILLER TO JUSTICE—DEAD OR ALIVE!

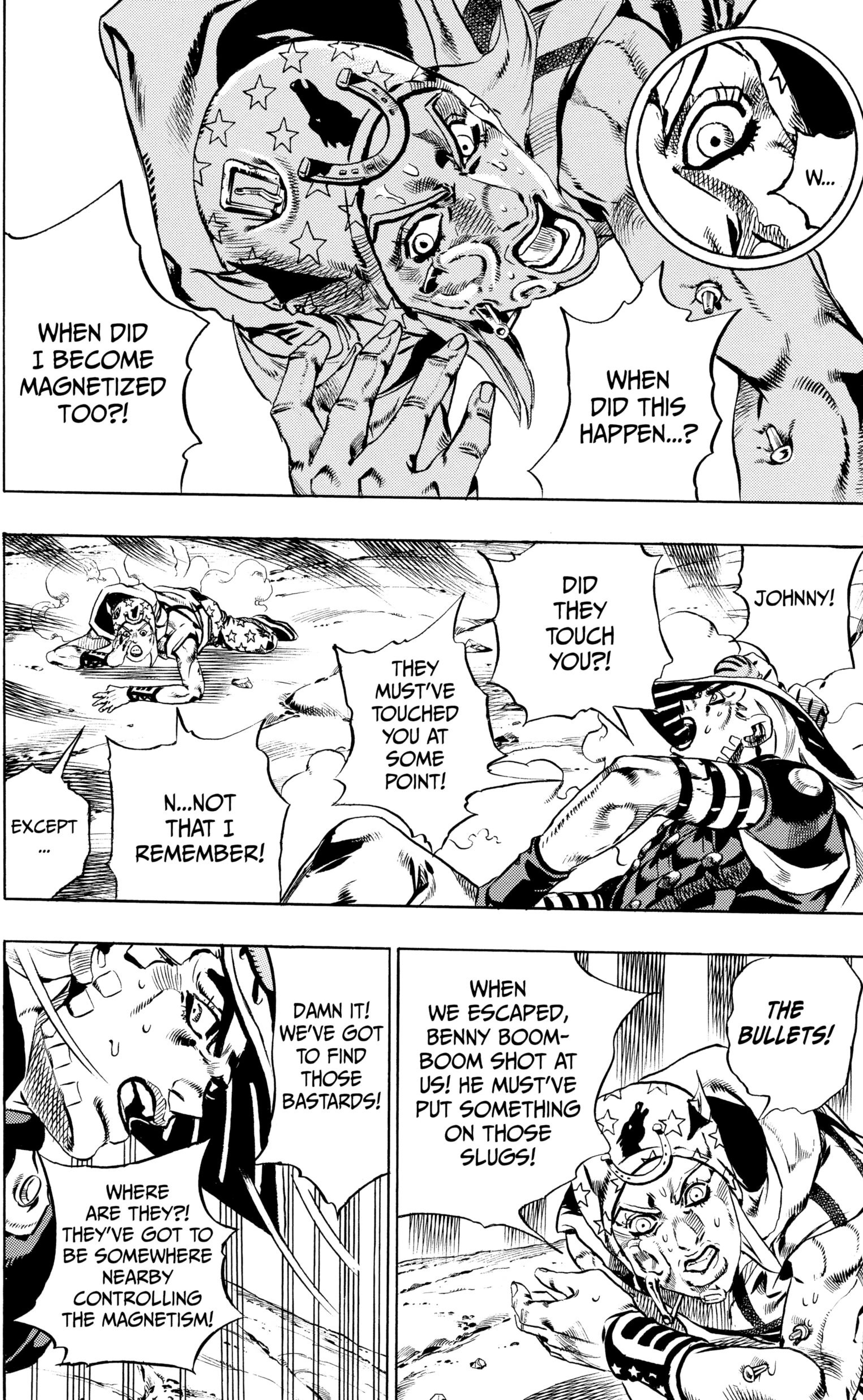

DO ド DO ド DO ド DO ド DO ド
NO...
DAMMIT! HOW IS HE THIS FAST?!
HE'S ALREADY MADE IT OVER THE NEXT RIDGE!
THAT'S AN UPHILL CLIMB, AND HE'S ONLY GETTING FASTER! THIS GUY'S CRAZY!
DO ド DO ド
NO, GYRO! THAT'S NOT IT!
I THINK I'M STARTING TO UNDERSTAND!
SOMETHING ELSE IS GOING ON HERE!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT... BUT IT HAS TO BE!
...
?
HE IS SPEEDING UP...
I DIDN'T NOTICE AT FIRST BECAUSE OF HOW FAST WE WERE GOING, BUT IT'S MORE THAN THAT!
BUT...
...THAT'S NOT ALL!

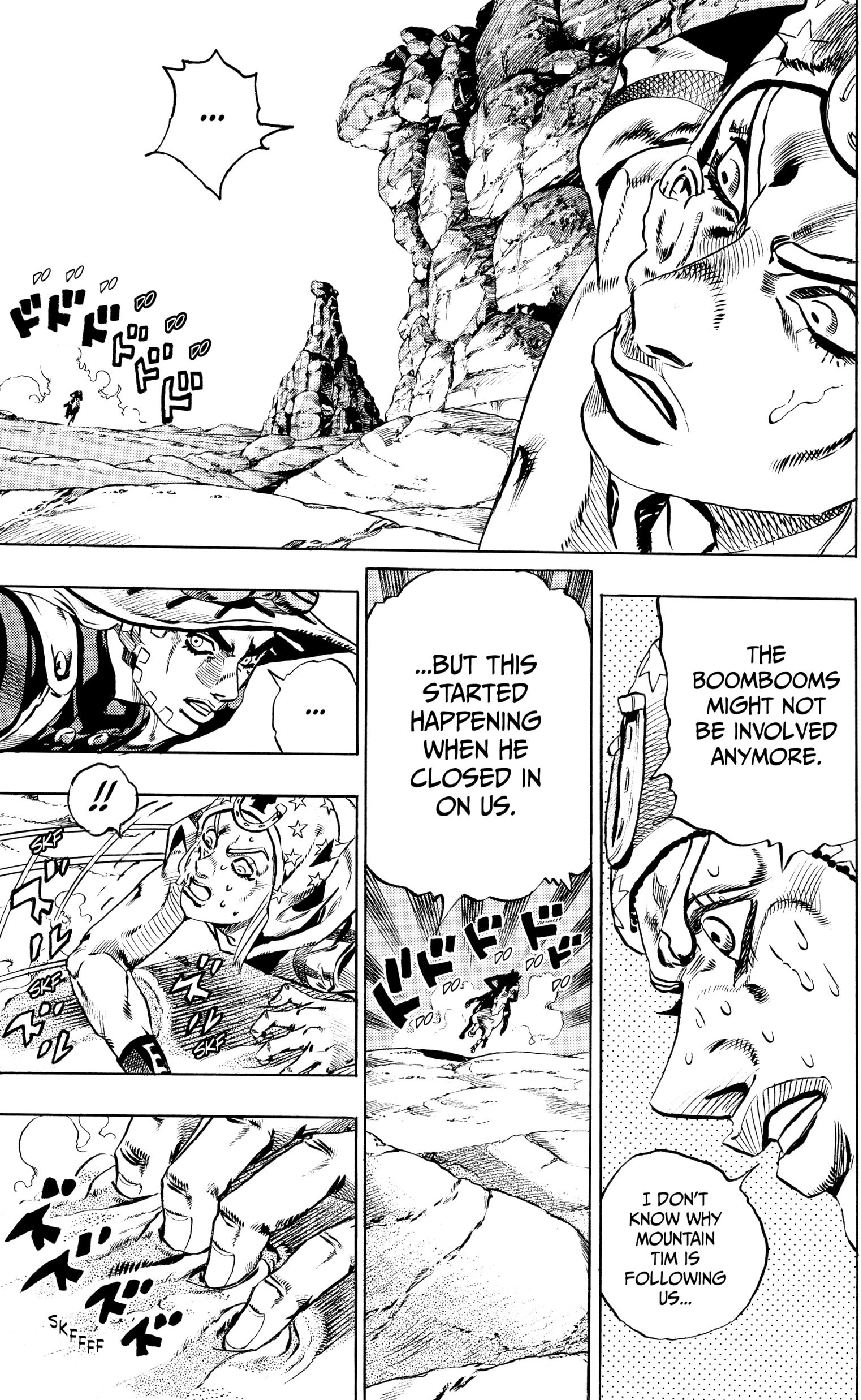

WHM
SQWTCH
I'M BEING PULLED BACKWARD!
MY WHOLE BODY!
SOMETHING'S PULLING ME BACK!
!!
POP
POP
POP
POP

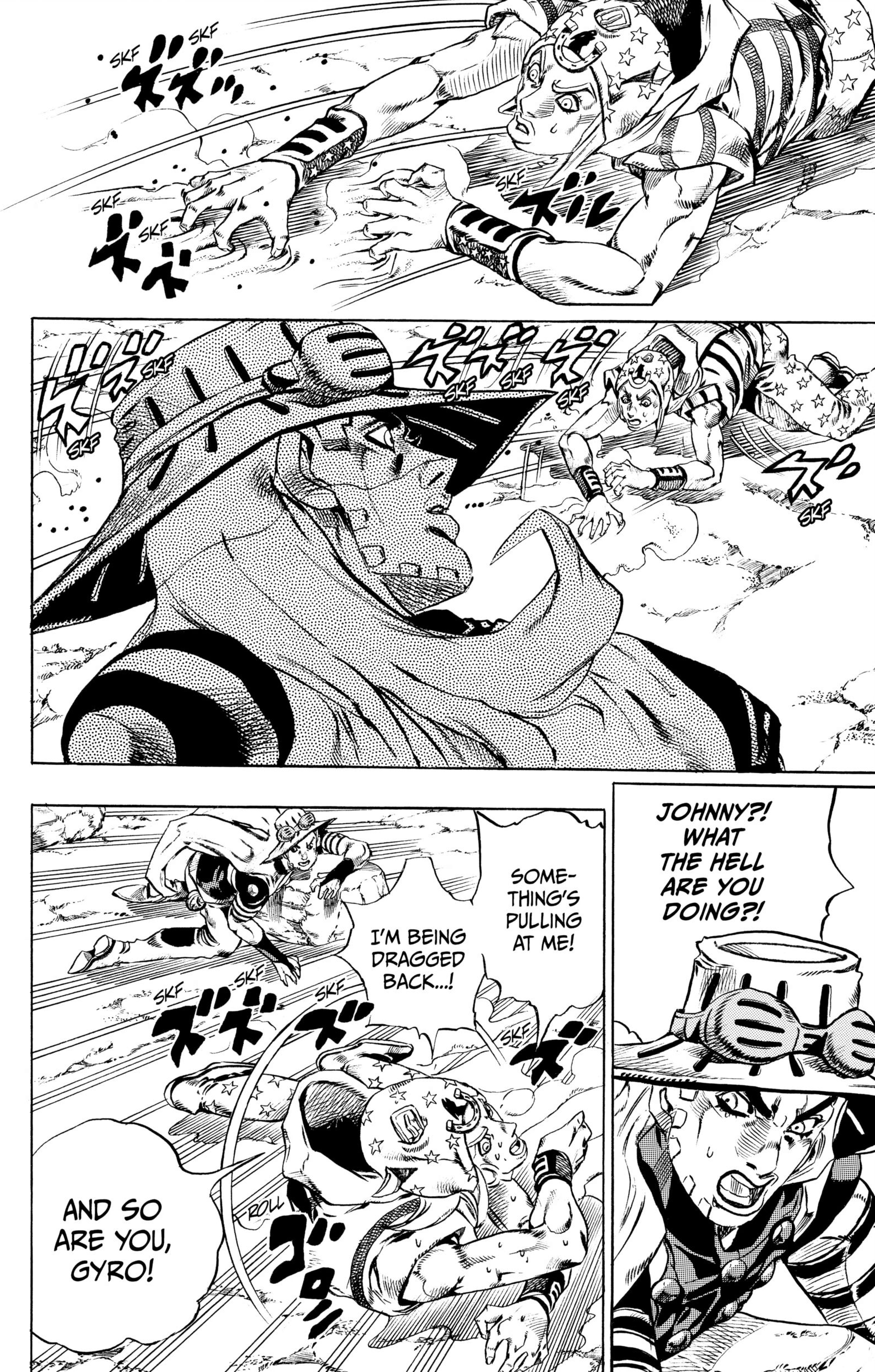

SHK
SHK
ドスッ
ドスッ
SHK
ドスッ
SHK
ALL THE IRON PARTS OF MY TACK ARE BREAKING OFF! THEY'RE SHOOTING INTO ME!
ドッ
ァァァァ
UWOOOOOM
JOHNNY!

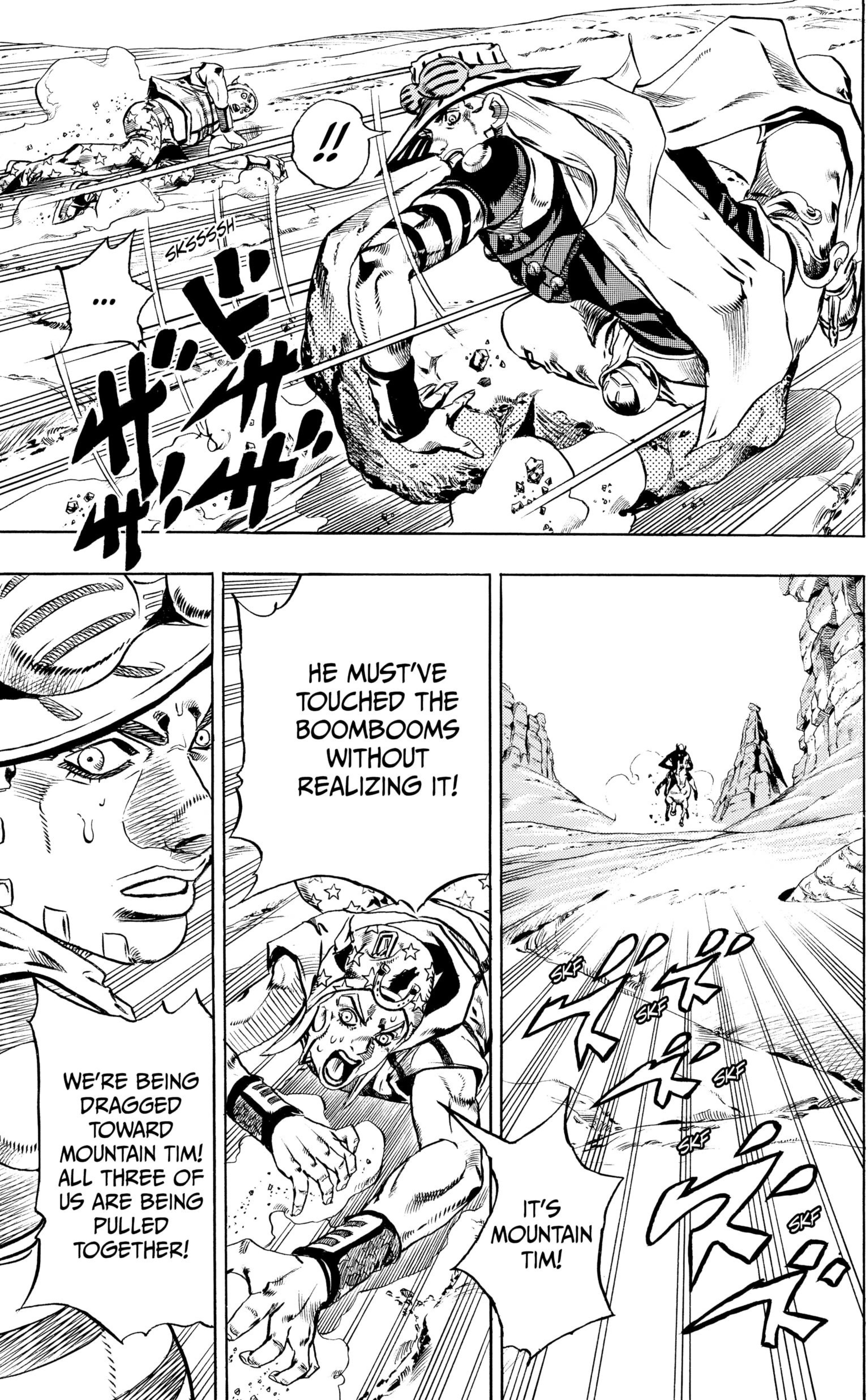

SHK
ドズ
SHK
ドズッ
SHK
ドス
OOF!
URGH!
WE GOT 'EM, BOYS! THEY FLEW RIGHT OFF THEIR HORSES!
AWE-SOME!!
ザッ
DOOM
ズ


I KNEW MOUNTAIN TIM WOULD COME THROUGH! WAS JUST A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE HE GOT WITHIN RANGE OF THE MAGNETIC FIELD!
IT'S AS GOOD AS DONE NOW! ALL THAT'S LEFT IS FOR THOSE THREE MAGNETIZED MORONS TO SMASH INTO EACH OTHER!
HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH!
HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH!
HEY, PAPA! LET'S GO WATCH! I WANNA SEE THEIR INSIDES BURST OPEN UP CLOSE!
YEAH!
HEY, POPS...
I...I'M FEELIN' PRETTY WOOZY. EVERYTHING'S ALL BLURRY, AND I'M COLD.
I THINK I MIGHT BE IN TROUBLE HERE.
YOU'RE COLD?
REALLY, ANDREW? YOU'RE COMPLAININ' ABOUT BEING COLD AT A TIME LIKE THIS?
IS THAT WHAT MATTERS RIGHT NOW?
ドド
VWOOOM


W...
WHEN DID THIS HAPPEN...?
WHEN DID I BECOME MAGNETIZED TOO?!
JOHNNY!
DID THEY TOUCH YOU?!
THEY MUST'VE TOUCHED YOU AT SOME POINT!
N...NOT THAT I REMEMBER!
EXCEPT ...
THE BULLETS!
WHEN WE ESCAPED, BENNY BOOM-BOOM SHOT AT US! HE MUST'VE PUT SOMETHING ON THOSE SLUGS!
DAMN IT! WE'VE GOT TO FIND THOSE BASTARDS!
WHERE ARE THEY?! THEY'VE GOT TO BE SOMEWHERE NEARBY CONTROLLING THE MAGNETISM!

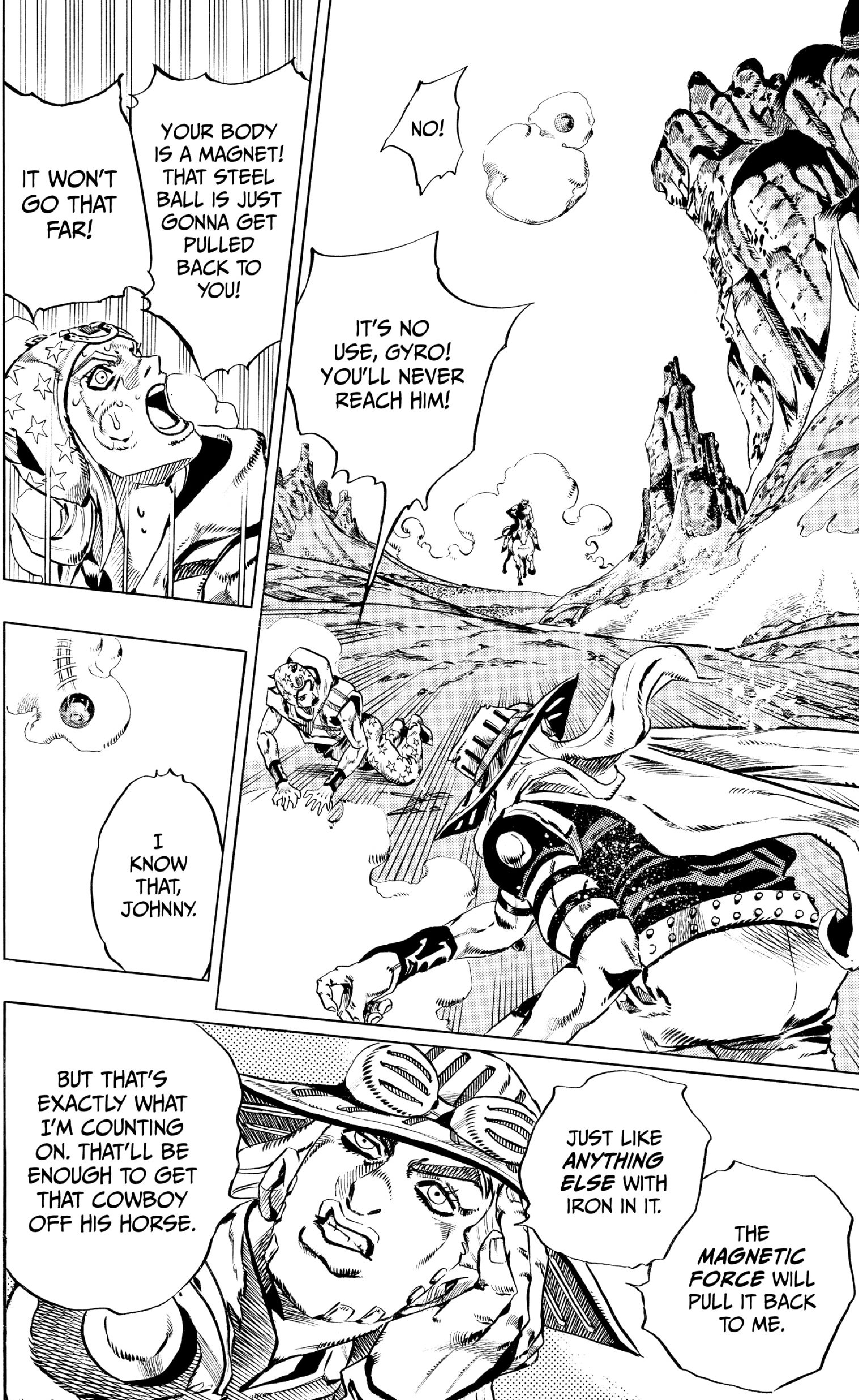

...
ドドドドドドド
DO DO DO DO DO DO DO
THE BOOMBOOMS MIGHT NOT BE INVOLVED ANYMORE.
I DON'T KNOW WHY MOUNTAIN TIM IS FOLLOWING US...
...BUT THIS STARTED HAPPENING WHEN HE CLOSED IN ON US.
ドドドドド
DO DO DO DO DO
...
!!
SKF
SKF
SKF
SKFFFF

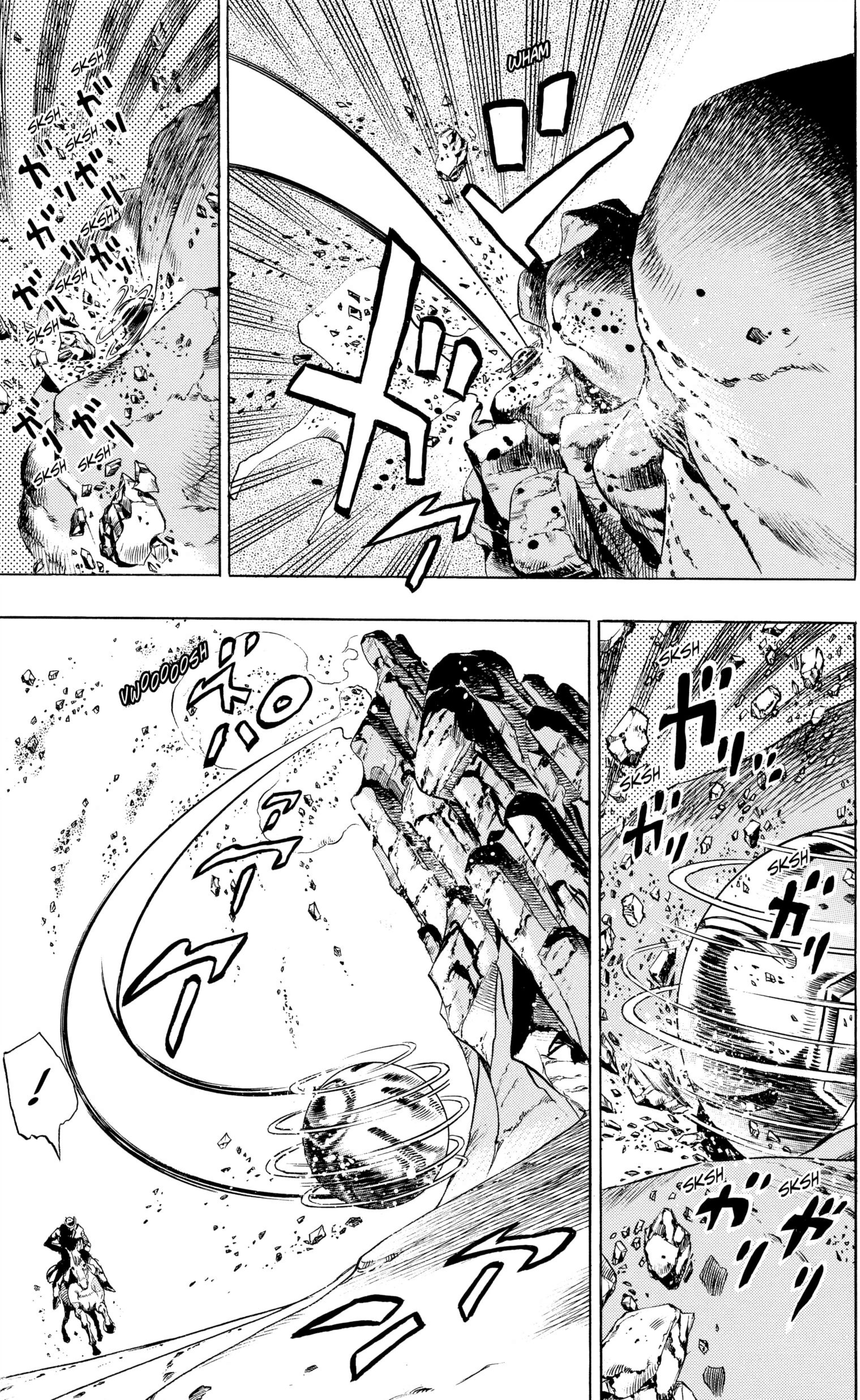

SKF
SKF
SKF
SKF
SKF
SKF
SKF
SKF
SKF
SKF
SKF
SKF
...
JOHNNY?! WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!
SOME-THING'S PULLING AT ME!
I'M BEING DRAGGED BACK...!
SKF
SKF
SKF
SKF
ROLL
AND SO ARE YOU, GYRO!


!!
SKSSSSH
…
ドザザザザ
SKF
SKF
SKF
SKF
SKF
ズズズズ
IT'S MOUNTAIN TIM!
HE MUST'VE TOUCHED THE BOOMBOOMS WITHOUT REALIZING IT!
WE'RE BEING DRAGGED TOWARD MOUNTAIN TIM! ALL THREE OF US ARE BEING PULLED TOGETHER!

WHEN IT WAS JUST YOU AND THAT ONE BOOMBOOM GUY, THE PULL WAS *WEAKER...*
...BUT IF ***ALL THREE OF US*** GET STUCK TOGETHER, I'M SURE THE MAGNETIC FORCES WILL MULTIPLY INTO SOMETHING EVEN STRONGER!
SKF
SKF
WE'RE BEING PULLED BACK-WARD!
AND HE'S SPEED-ING UP TOWARD US!
SKF
SKF
SKSSSSSSH
HOW HAS HE NOT FALLEN OFF HIS HORSE?!
I DON'T THINK HE'S EVEN NOTICED. HE'S BEING PULLED IN THE SAME DIRECTION HE'S ALREADY RIDING!
GRIP
WHAT'LL HAPPEN IF HE REACHES US?!
GRIP
THE SKIN ON MY ARMS IS ALREADY STARTING TO SPLIT!
THE IRON IN OUR BLOOD MUST BE AFFECTED TOO!
WE CAN'T LET HIM REACH US!
GSH
GSH
GSH
IF THIS KEEPS UP, ALL OF US COULD END UP BEING RIPPED APART!

WE HAVE TO TELL MOUNTAIN TIM! WE NEED HIM TO GET OFF HIS HORSE RIGHT NOW!
DO DO DO
WHAT'S THIS?!
WHY IS JOHNNY JOESTAR ON THE GROUND?
DO DO DO DO
UWOOM
AND THAT'S GYRO ZEPPELI WITH HIM...
THEY'RE SHOUTIN' SOMETHING, BUT I CAN'T GET A GOOD LOOK AT 'EM THROUGH THOSE DUST CLOUDS.
DO DO
HE CAN'T HEAR US! HE'S STILL BARRELING RIGHT FOR US!
EVEN IF HE *DID* HEAR US, I'M NOT SURE WE COULD CONVINCE HIM TO JUST JUMP OFF HIS HORSE WILLY-NILLY.
SKSSSSSSH
...
IF WE DON'T FIND A WAY TO TELL HIM WE'VE BEEN MAGNETIZED, WE'LL ALL BE DEAD BEFORE HE FIGURES IT OUT!
IN THAT CASE, I'LL JUST HAVE TO PULL HIM OFF THAT HORSE MYSELF!
VWSH
HYA AAA AH!


NO!
IT'S NO USE, GYRO! YOU'LL NEVER REACH HIM!
YOUR BODY IS A MAGNET! THAT STEEL BALL IS JUST GONNA GET PULLED BACK TO YOU!
IT WON'T GO THAT FAR!
I KNOW THAT, JOHNNY.
JUST LIKE *ANYTHING ELSE* WITH IRON IN IT.
THE *MAGNETIC FORCE* WILL PULL IT BACK TO ME.
BUT THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I'M COUNTING ON. THAT'LL BE ENOUGH TO GET THAT COWBOY OFF HIS HORSE.


WHAM
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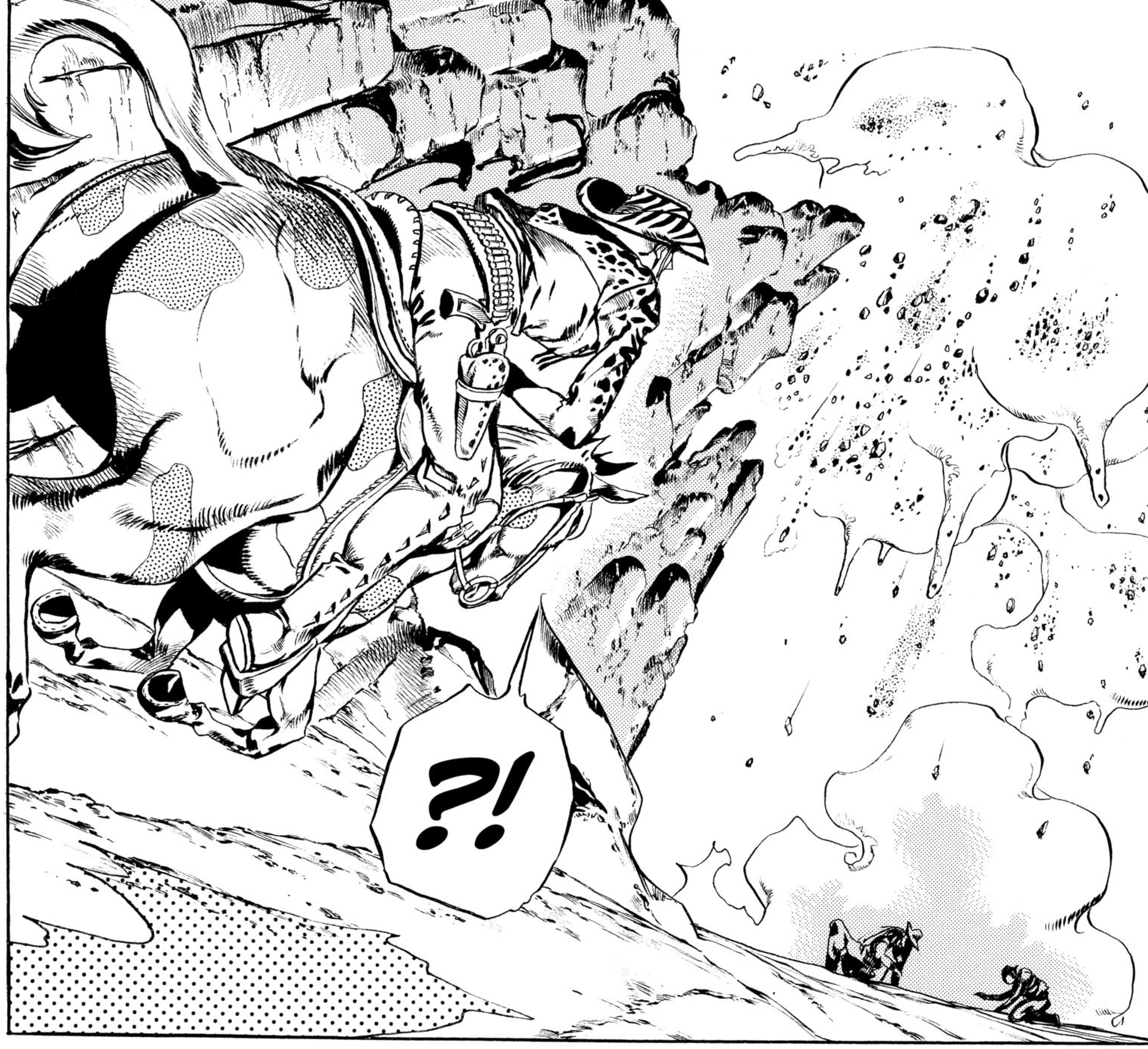
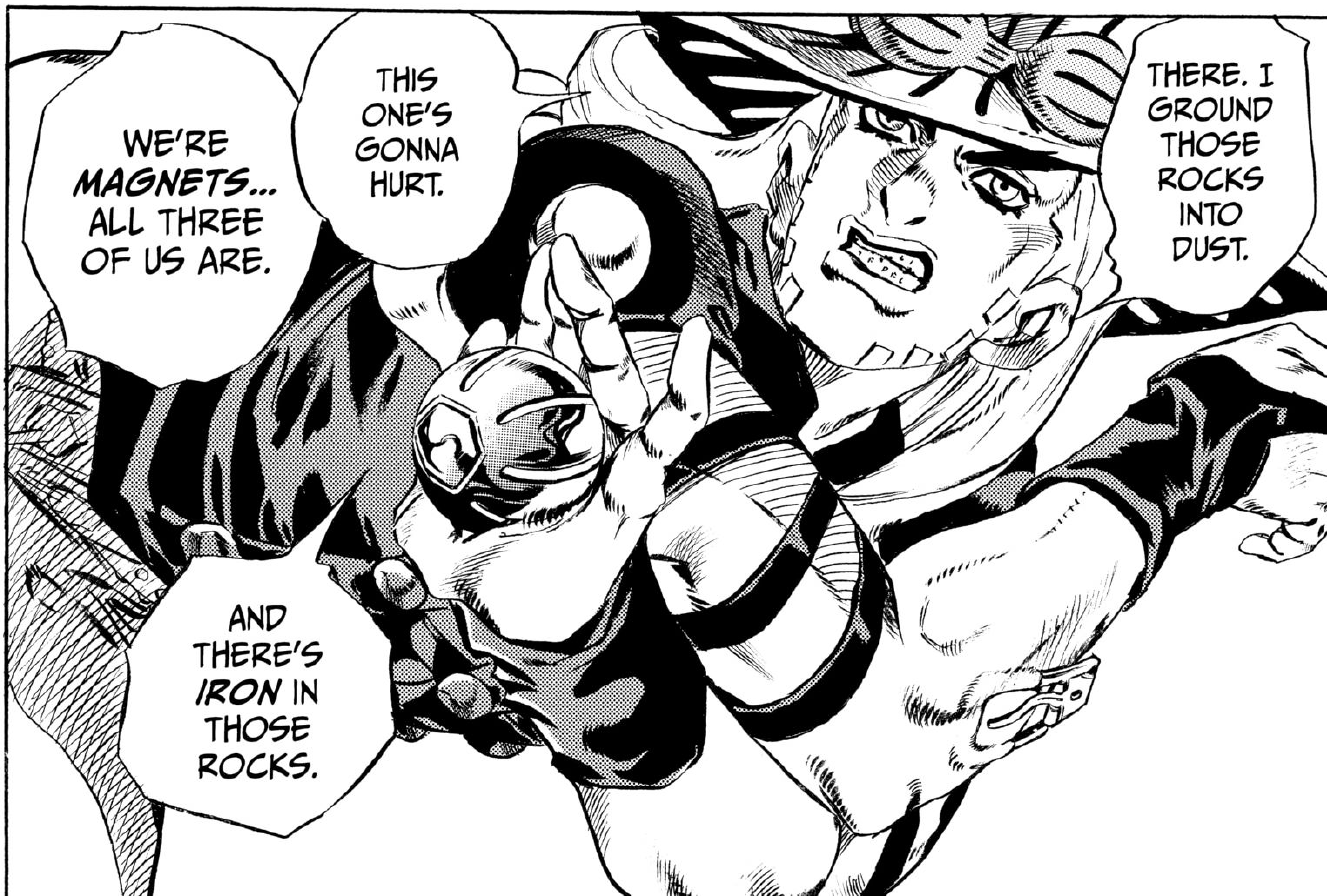
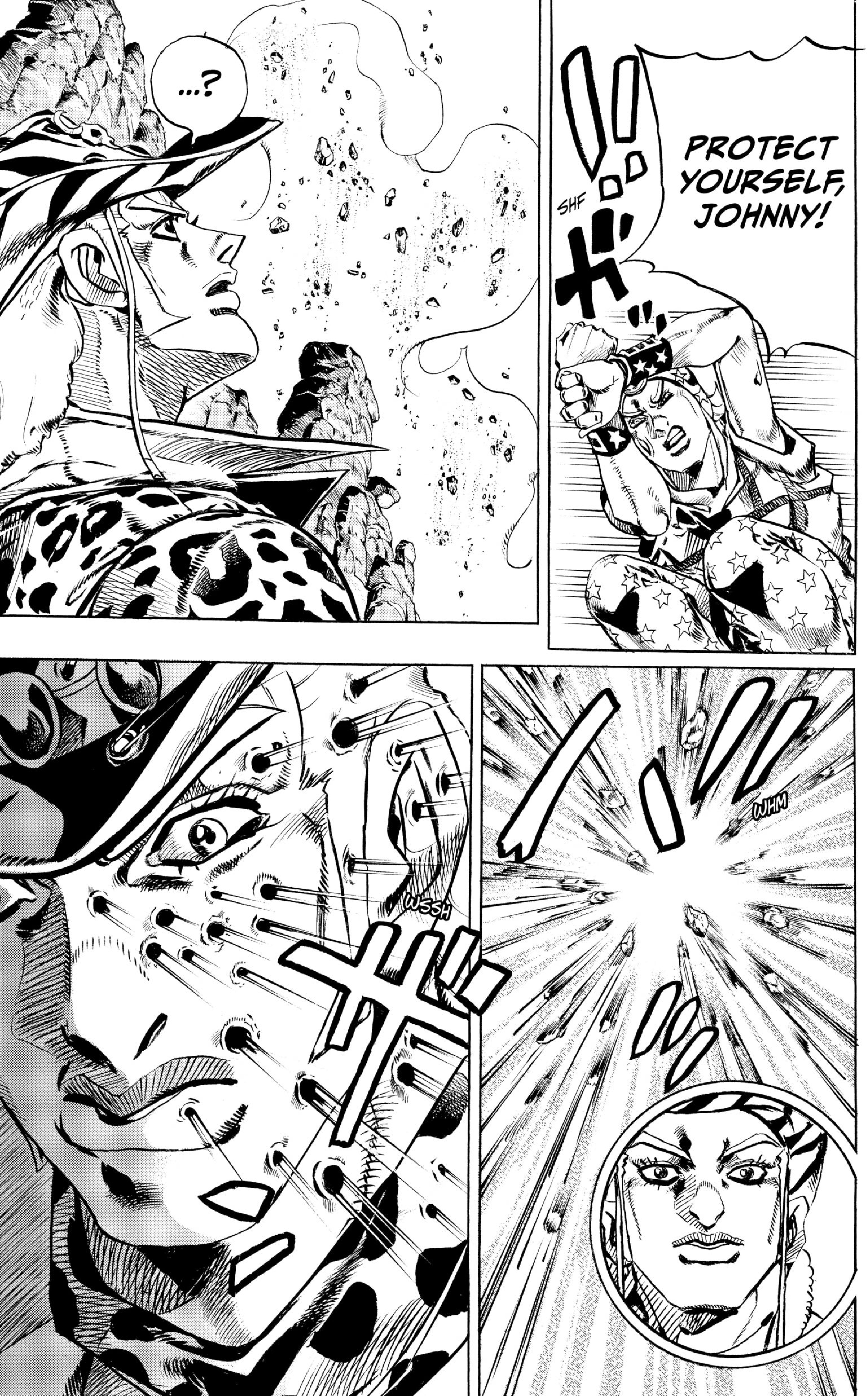
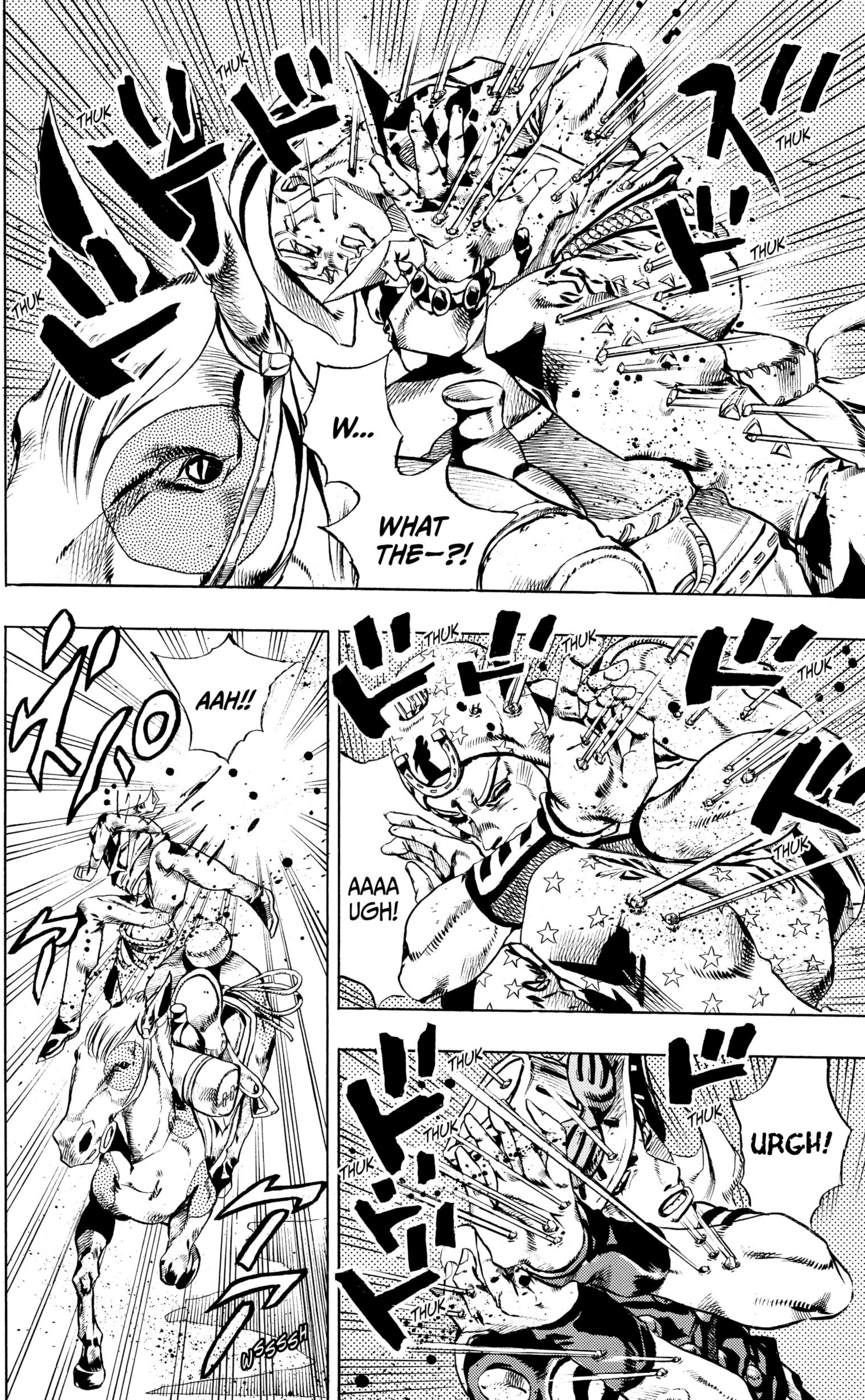
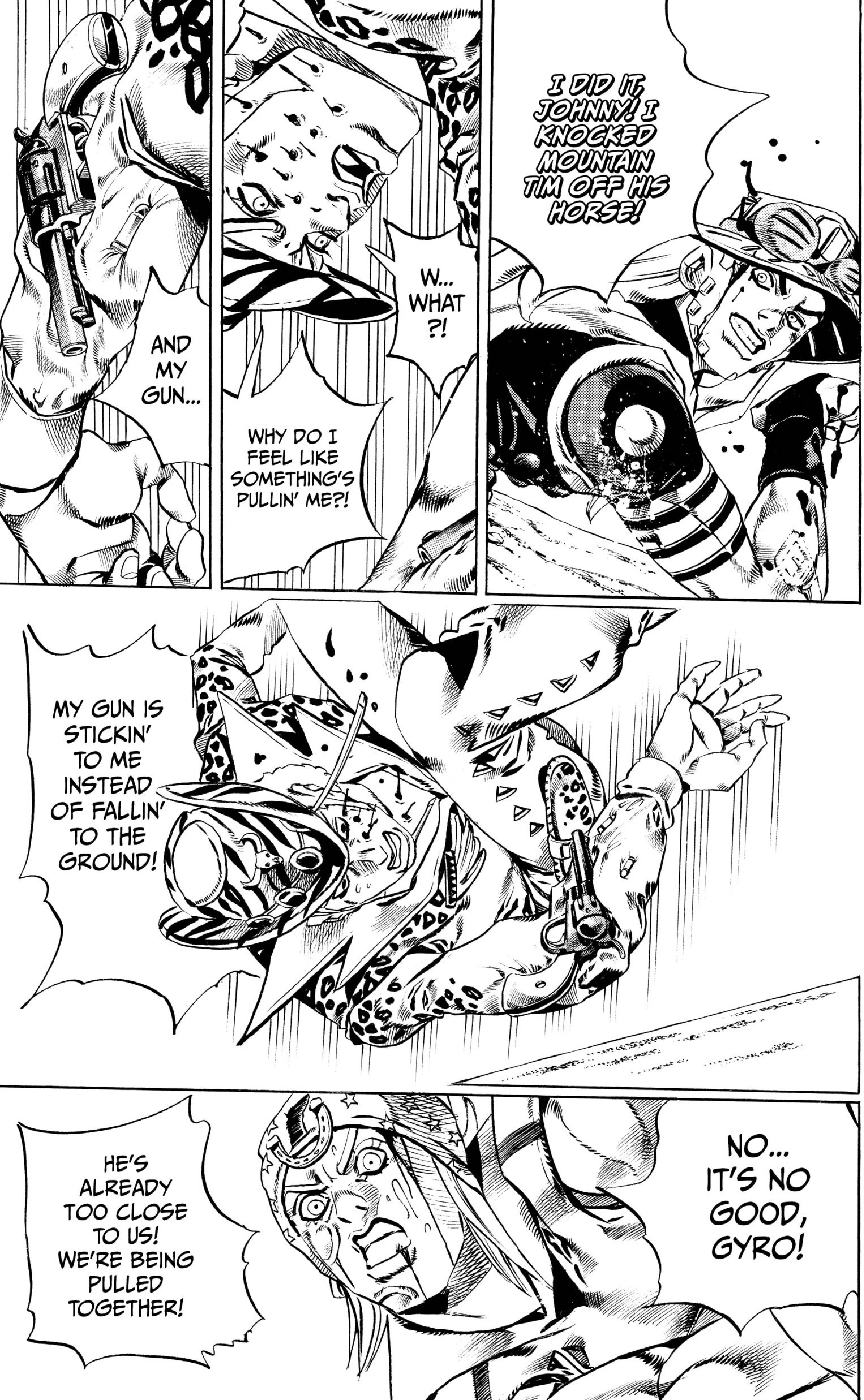
VWOOOOOSH
ズポアアアアア
!


?!


THERE. I GROUND THOSE ROCKS INTO DUST.
THIS ONE'S GONNA HURT.
WE'RE *MAGNETS*... ALL THREE OF US ARE.
AND THERE'S *IRON* IN THOSE ROCKS.

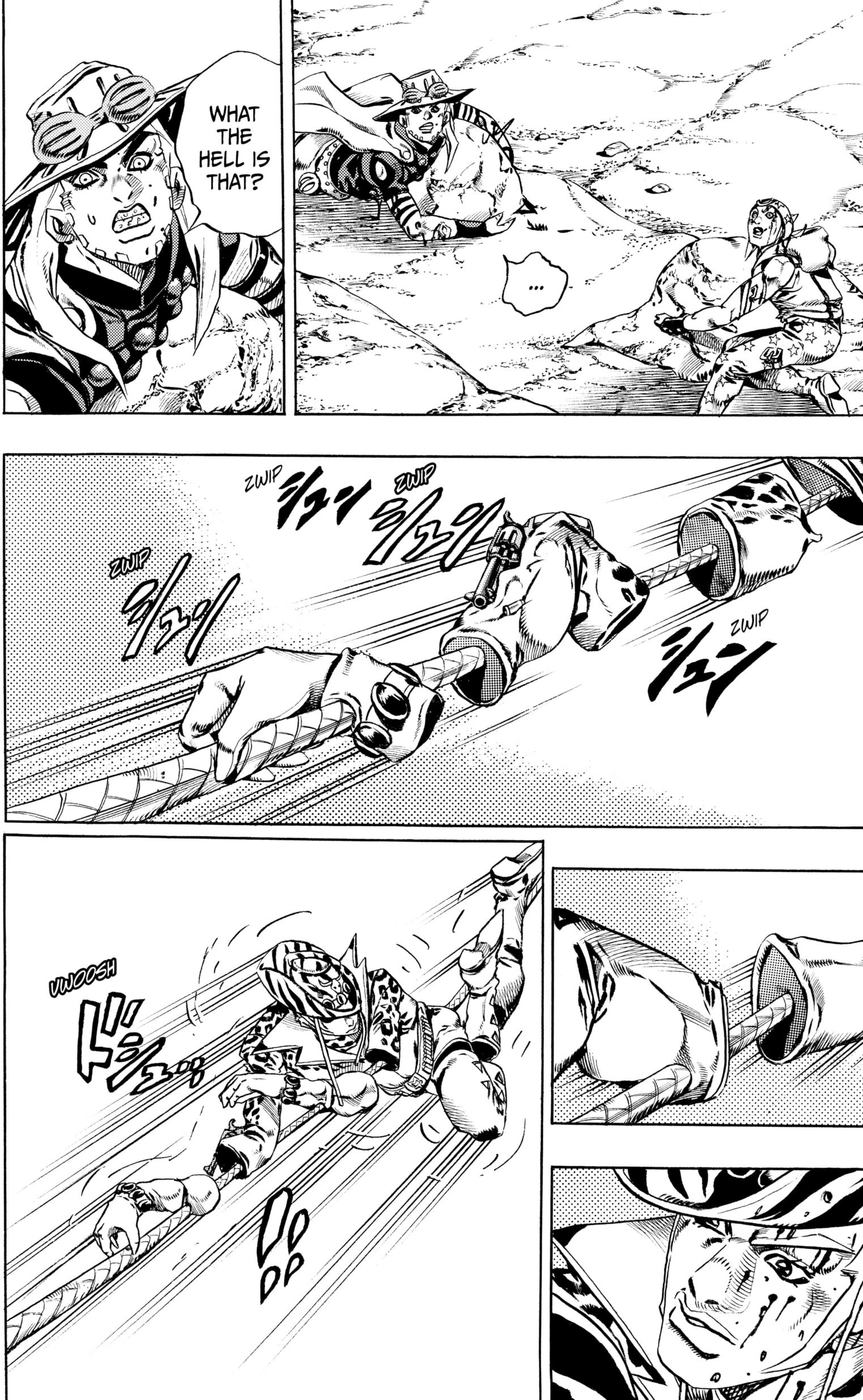

PROTECT YOURSELF, JOHNNY!
SHF
...?
WHM
WSSH

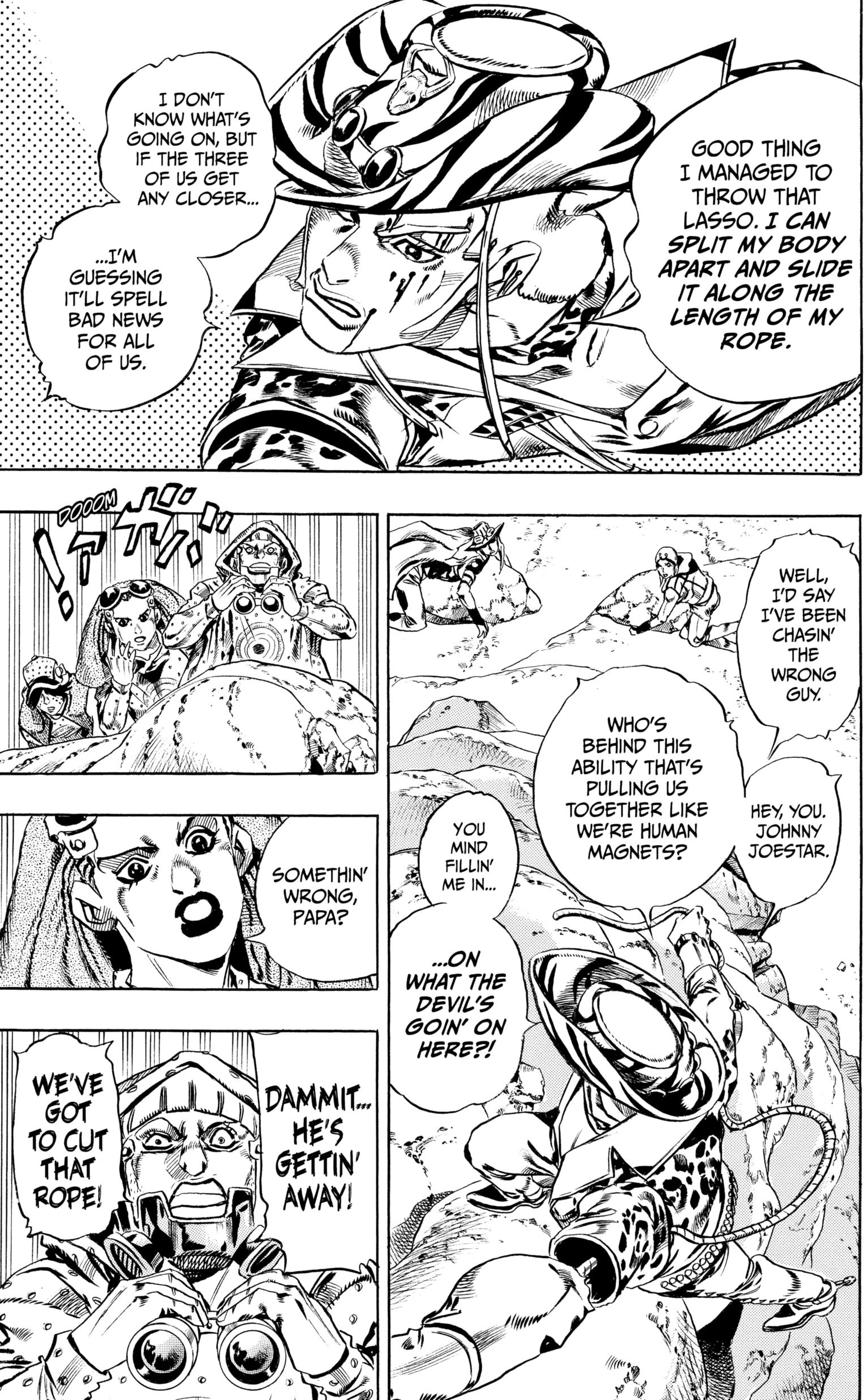

ドドド
THUK
THUK
THUK
THUK
THUK
W...
WHAT THE-?!
ドド
THUK
THUK
THUK
THUK
AAAA UGH!
ドド
THUK
THUK
THUK
THUK
THUK
URGH!
AAH!!
WSSSSH


I DID IT, JOHNNY! I KNOCKED MOUNTAIN TIM OFF HIS HORSE!
W... WHAT?!
WHY DO I FEEL LIKE SOMETHING'S PULLIN' ME?!
AND MY GUN...
MY GUN IS STICKIN' TO ME INSTEAD OF FALLIN' TO THE GROUND!
NO... IT'S NO GOOD, GYRO!
HE'S ALREADY TOO CLOSE TO US! WE'RE BEING PULLED TOGETHER!

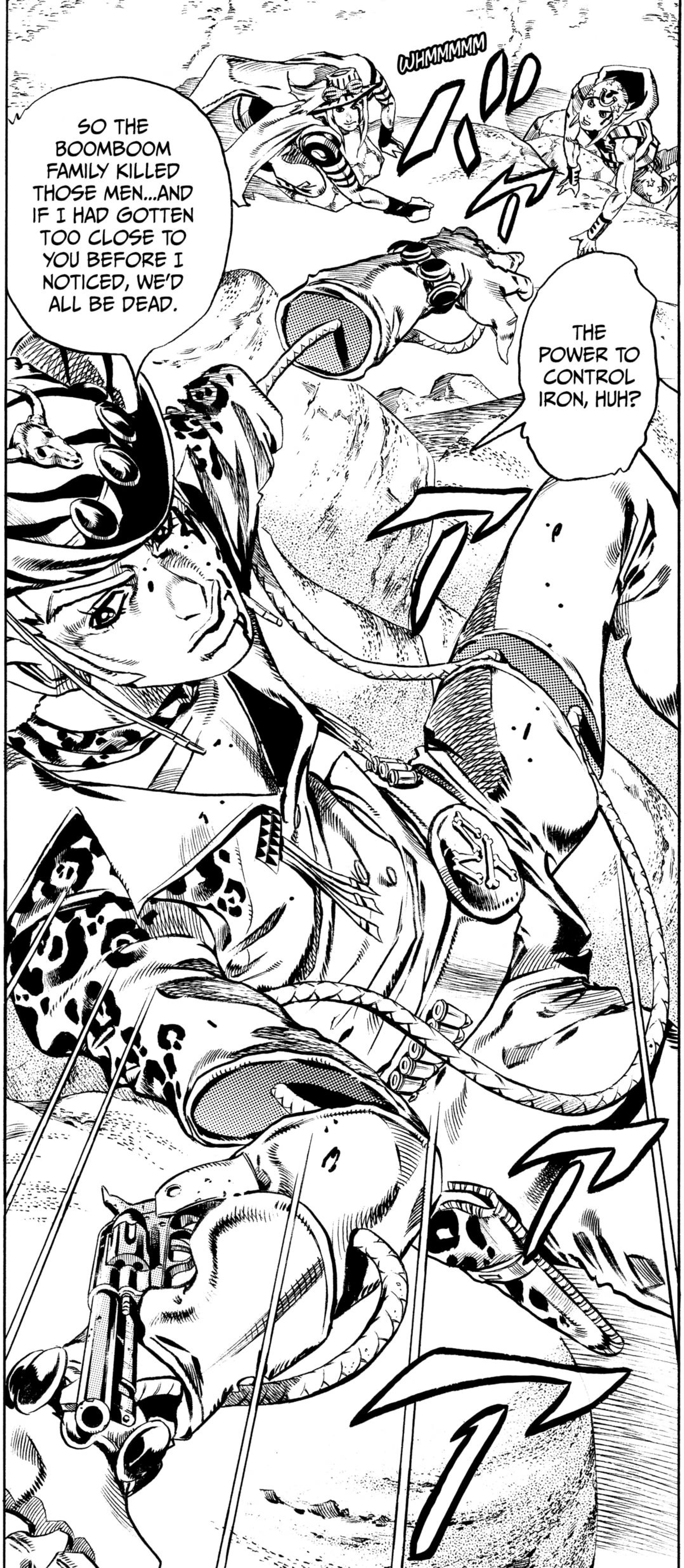
MOUNTAIN TIM IS BEING PULLED RIGHT TO US IN MIDAIR!
IT'S TOO LATE! THE FORCE IS TOO STRONG! WE'RE TOO CLOSE!
VWOOOM
HE'S GONNA CRASH RIGHT INTO US!
VWOOSH
MY VEINS ARE STARTING TO BURST!
GWSSSH
GWSH
GWSH
SKRIP
SKRIP
SKRIP
GSH

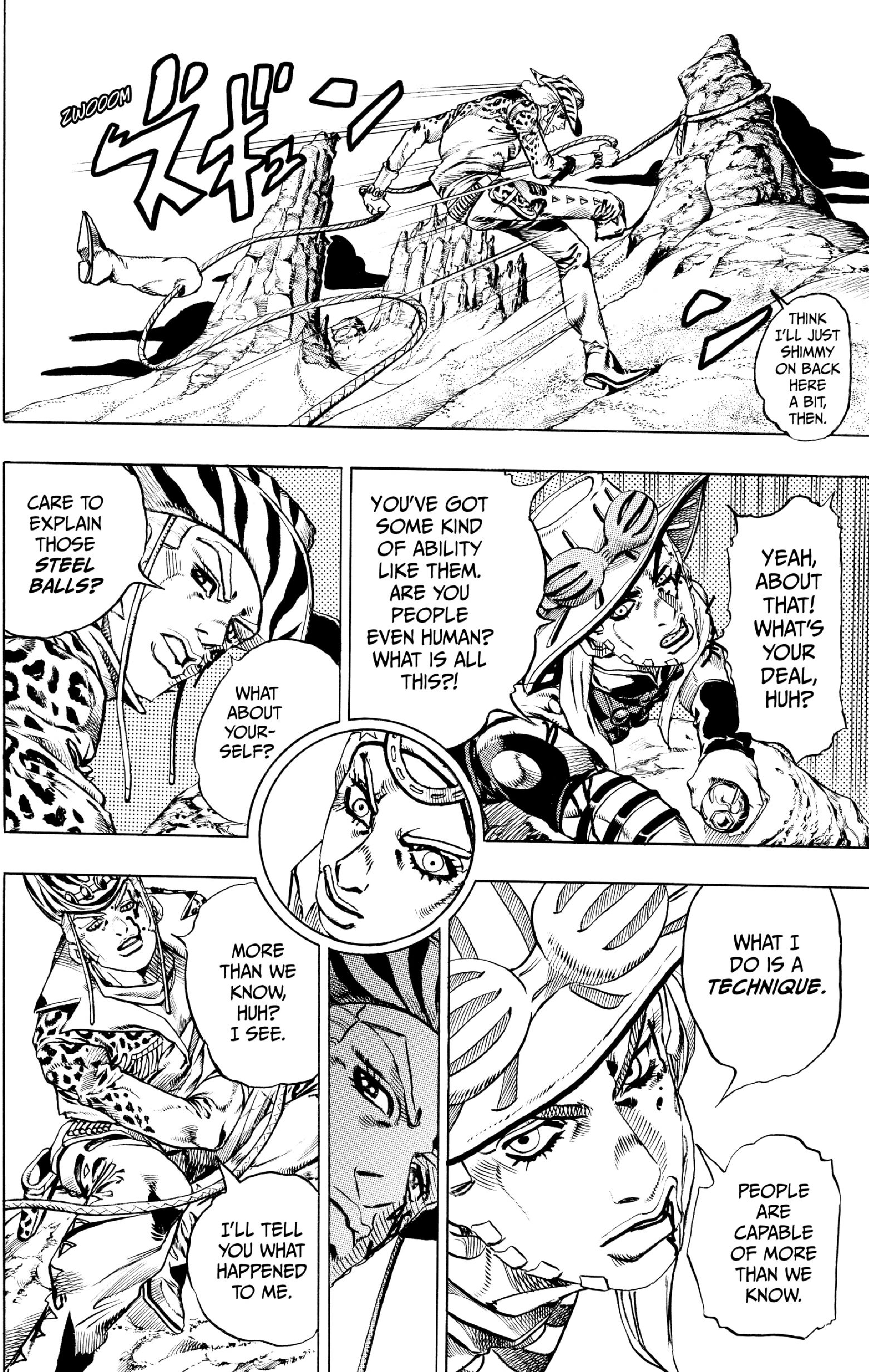
OOOM
VWOOO

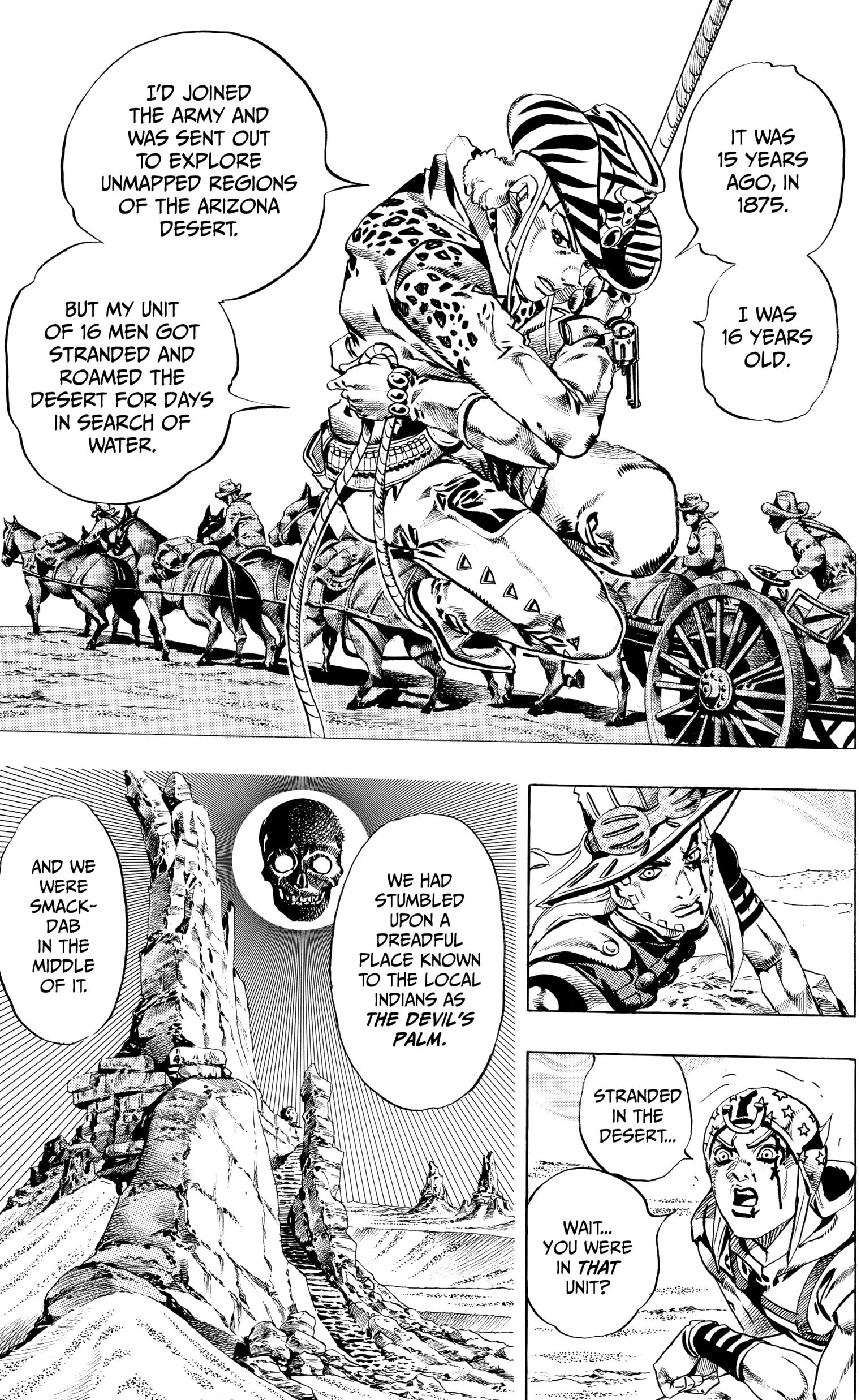

...
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?
ZWIP
ZWIP
ZWIP
ZWIP
VWOOSH
DP
DP

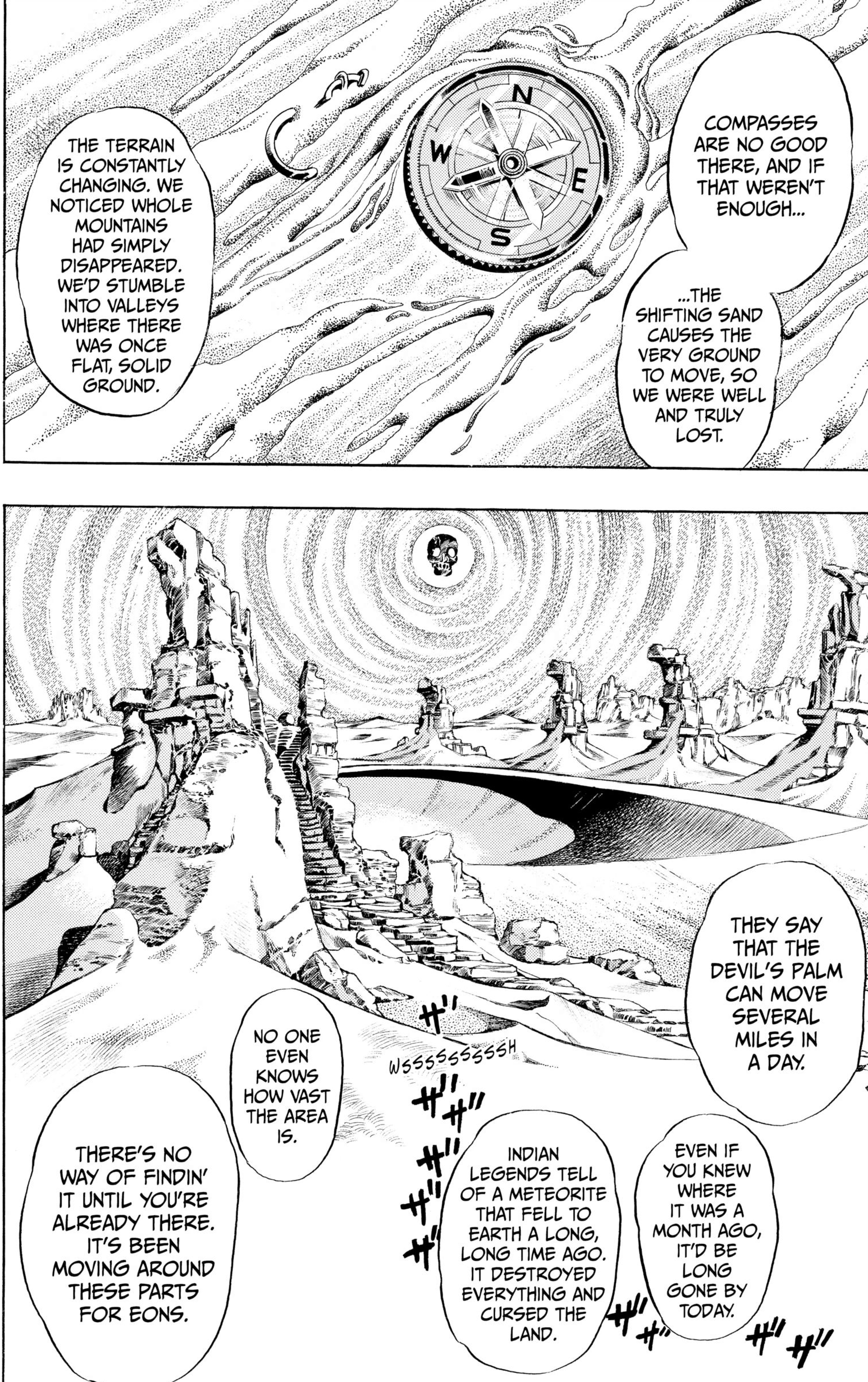

GOOD THING I MANAGED TO THROW THAT LASSO. I CAN SPLIT MY BODY APART AND SLIDE IT ALONG THE LENGTH OF MY ROPE.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON, BUT IF THE THREE OF US GET ANY CLOSER...
...I'M GUESSING IT'LL SPELL BAD NEWS FOR ALL OF US.
WELL, I'D SAY I'VE BEEN CHASIN' THE WRONG GUY.
HEY, YOU. JOHNNY JOESTAR.
WHO'S BEHIND THIS ABILITY THAT'S PULLING US TOGETHER LIKE WE'RE HUMAN MAGNETS?
YOU MIND FILLIN' ME IN...
...ON WHAT THE DEVIL'S GOIN' ON HERE?!
DOOOM
SOMETHIN' WRONG, PAPA?
DAMMIT... HE'S GETTIN' AWAY!
WE'VE GOT TO CUT THAT ROPE!

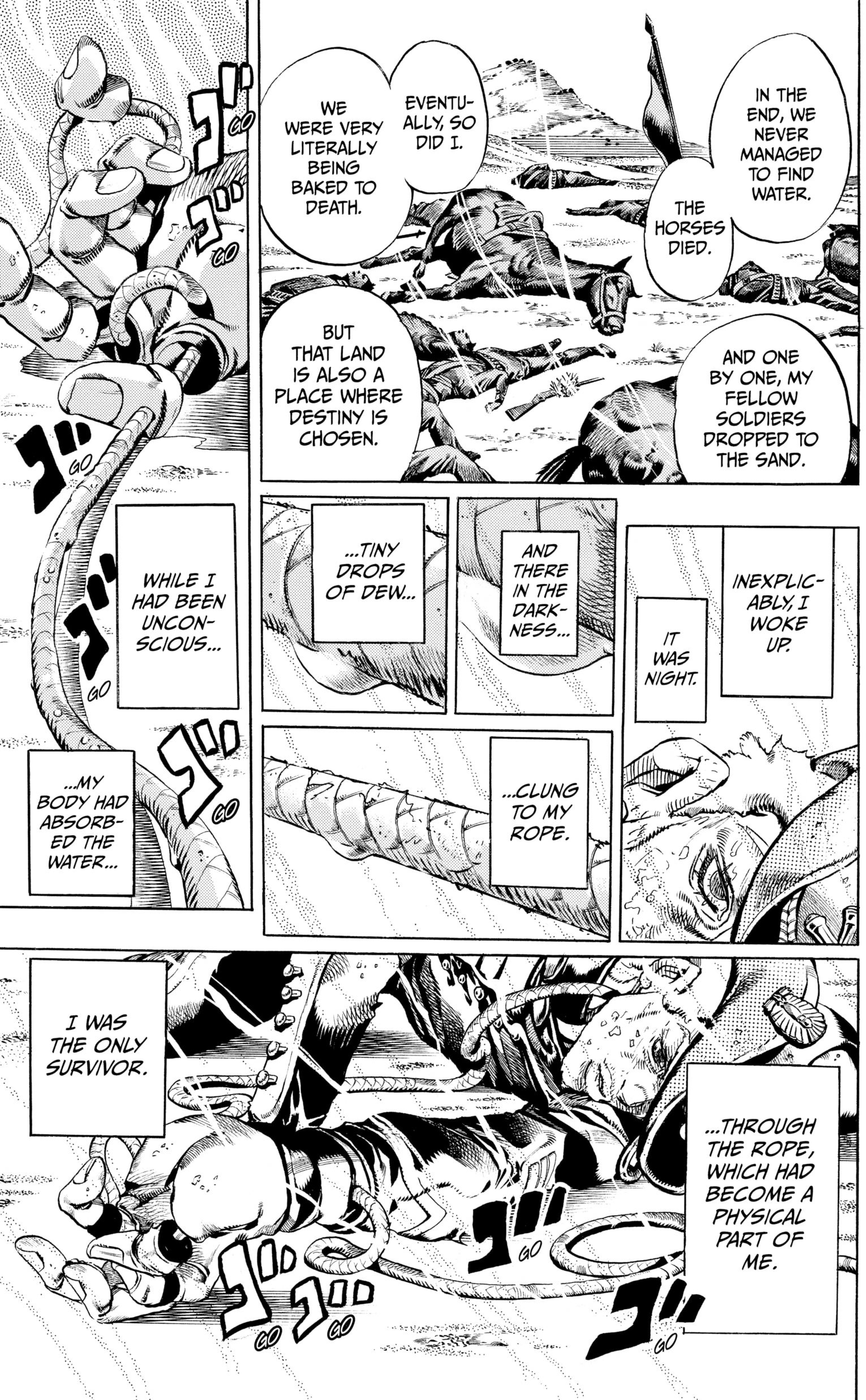
CHAPTER 19: The Devil's Palm, Part 2

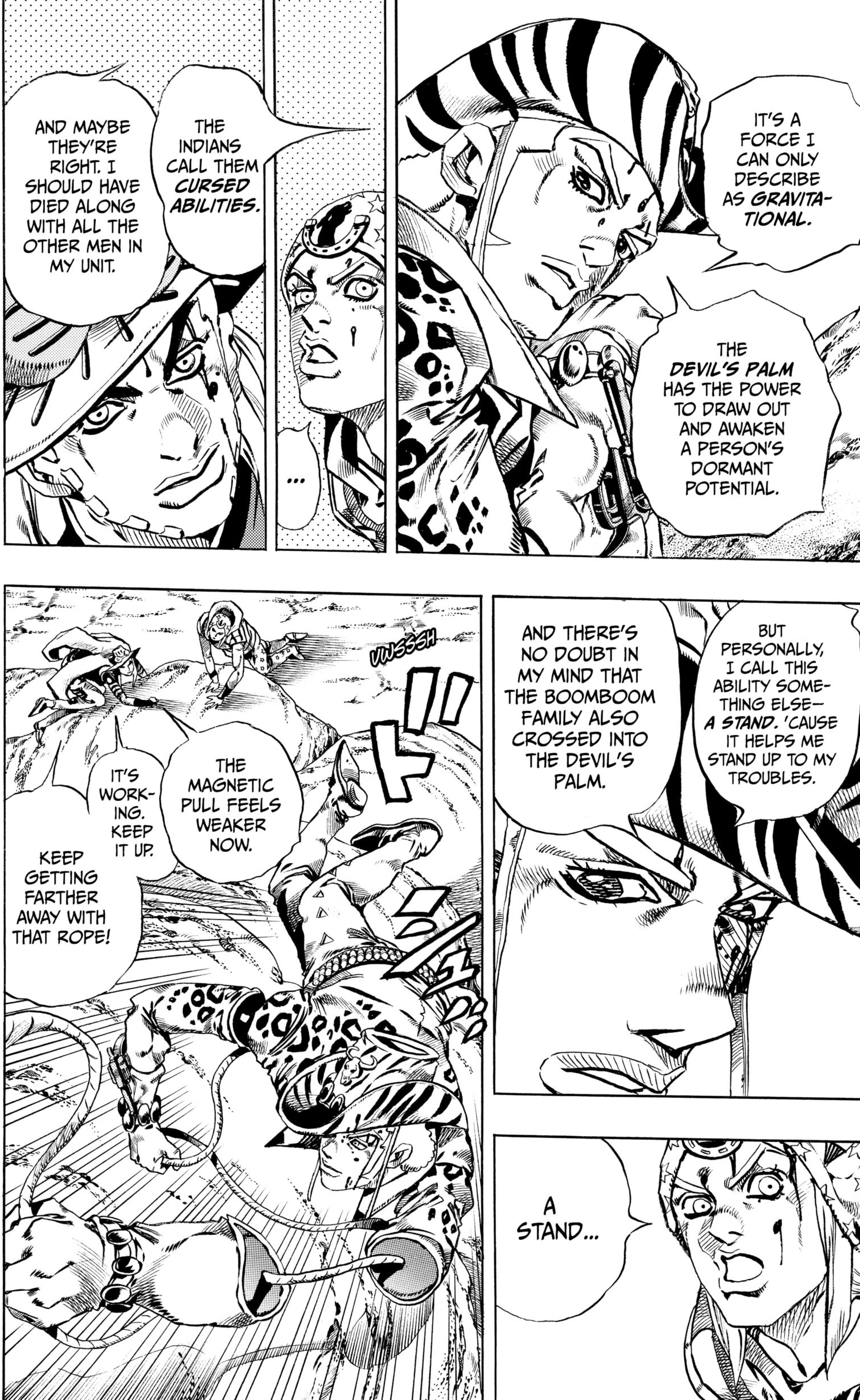

WHMMMMM
THE POWER TO CONTROL IRON, HUH?
SO THE BOOMBOOM FAMILY KILLED THOSE MEN...AND IF I HAD GOTTEN TOO CLOSE TO YOU BEFORE I NOTICED, WE'D ALL BE DEAD.

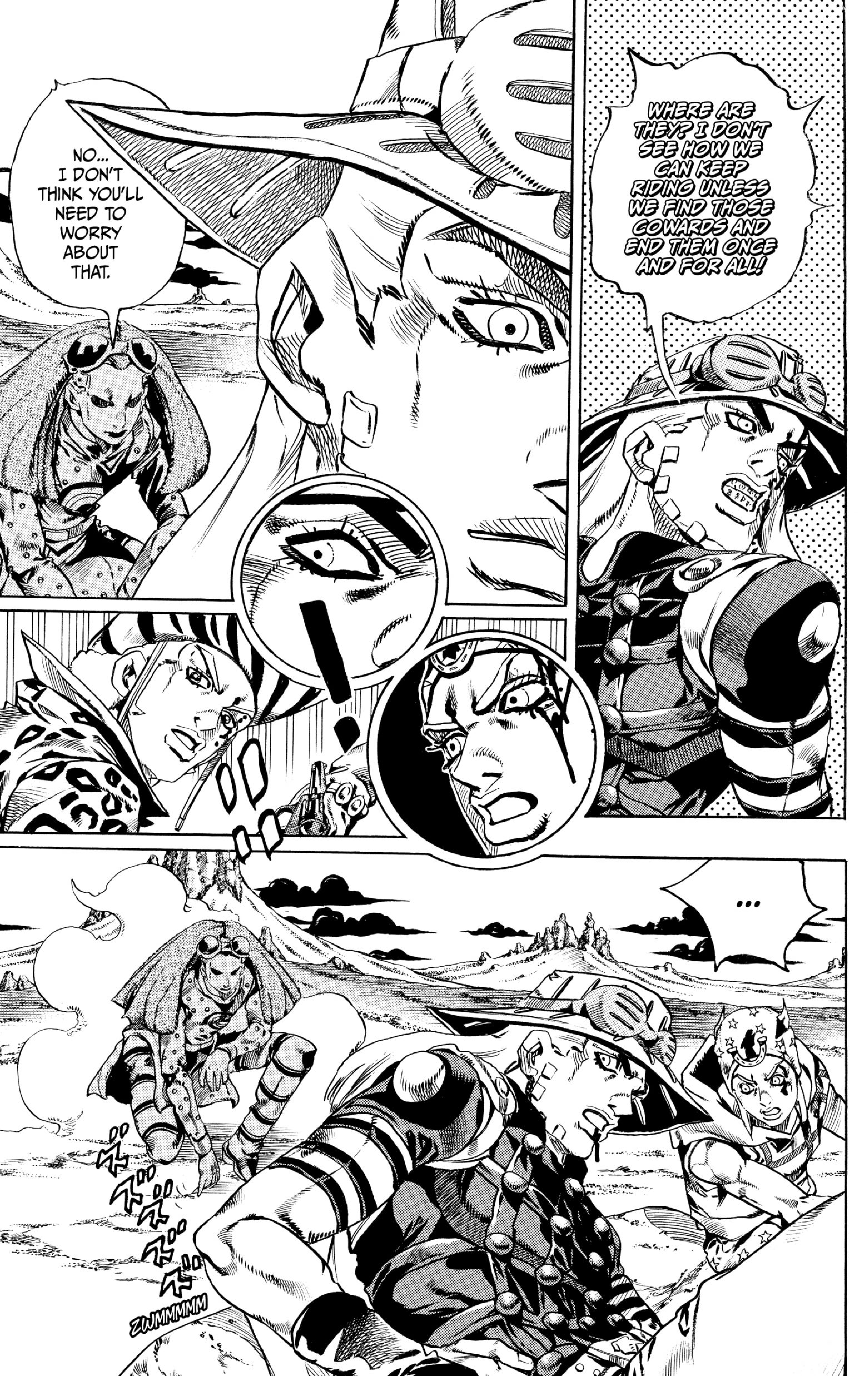

ZWOOOM
ズギュン
THINK I'LL JUST SHIMMY ON BACK HERE A BIT, THEN.
YEAH, ABOUT THAT! WHAT'S YOUR DEAL, HUH?
YOU'VE GOT SOME KIND OF ABILITY LIKE THEM. ARE YOU PEOPLE EVEN HUMAN? WHAT IS ALL THIS?!
CARE TO EXPLAIN THOSE *STEEL BALLS?*
WHAT ABOUT YOURSELF?
WHAT I DO IS A *TECHNIQUE.*
PEOPLE ARE CAPABLE OF MORE THAN WE KNOW.
MORE THAN WE KNOW, HUH? I SEE.
I'LL TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENED TO ME.

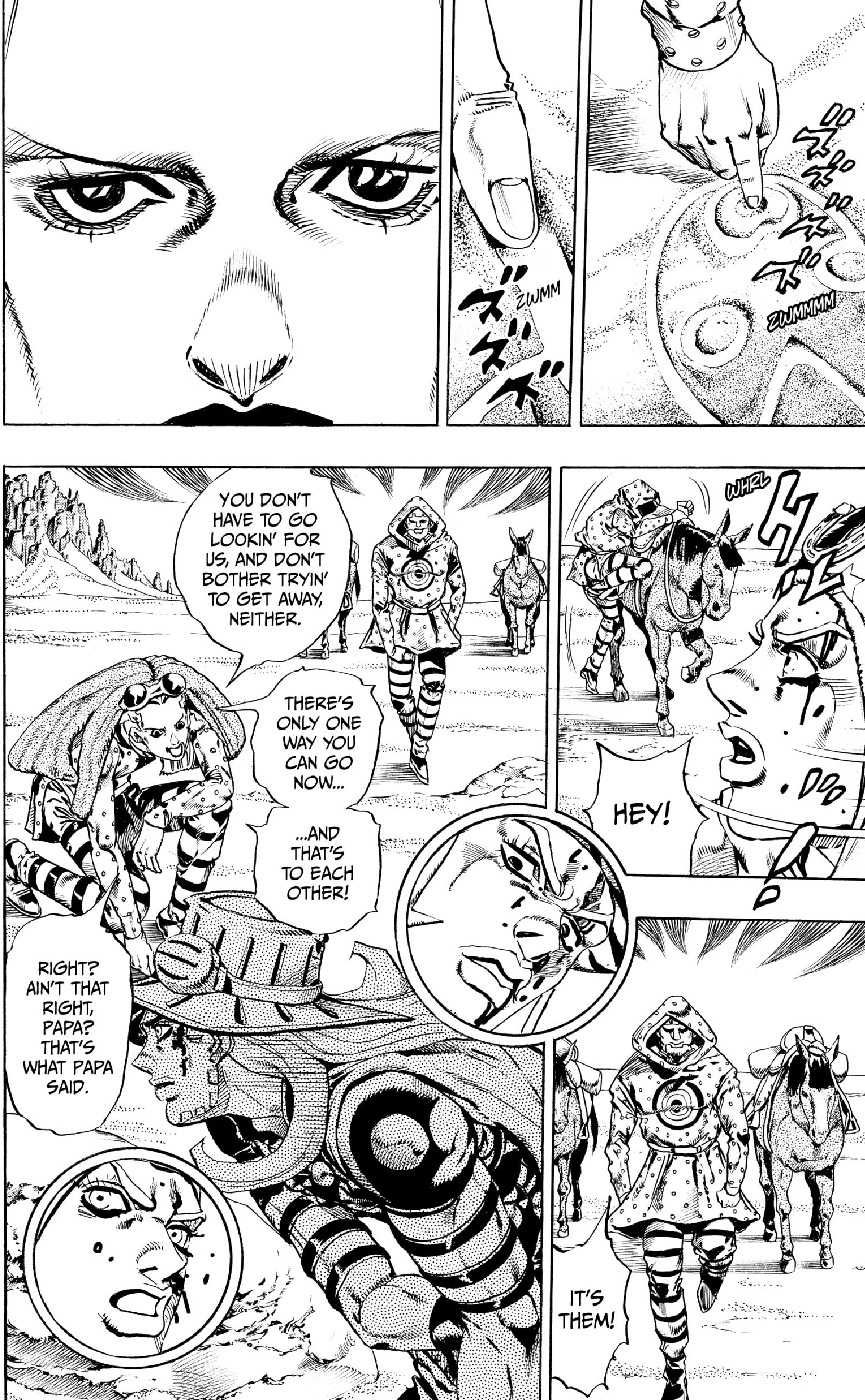

IT WAS 15 YEARS AGO, IN 1875.
I WAS 16 YEARS OLD.
I'D JOINED THE ARMY AND WAS SENT OUT TO EXPLORE UNMAPPED REGIONS OF THE ARIZONA DESERT.
BUT MY UNIT OF 16 MEN GOT STRANDED AND ROAMED THE DESERT FOR DAYS IN SEARCH OF WATER.
STRANDED IN THE DESERT...
WAIT... YOU WERE IN *THAT* UNIT?
WE HAD STUMBLED UPON A DREADFUL PLACE KNOWN TO THE LOCAL INDIANS AS ***THE DEVIL'S PALM.***
AND WE WERE SMACK-DAB IN THE MIDDLE OF IT.

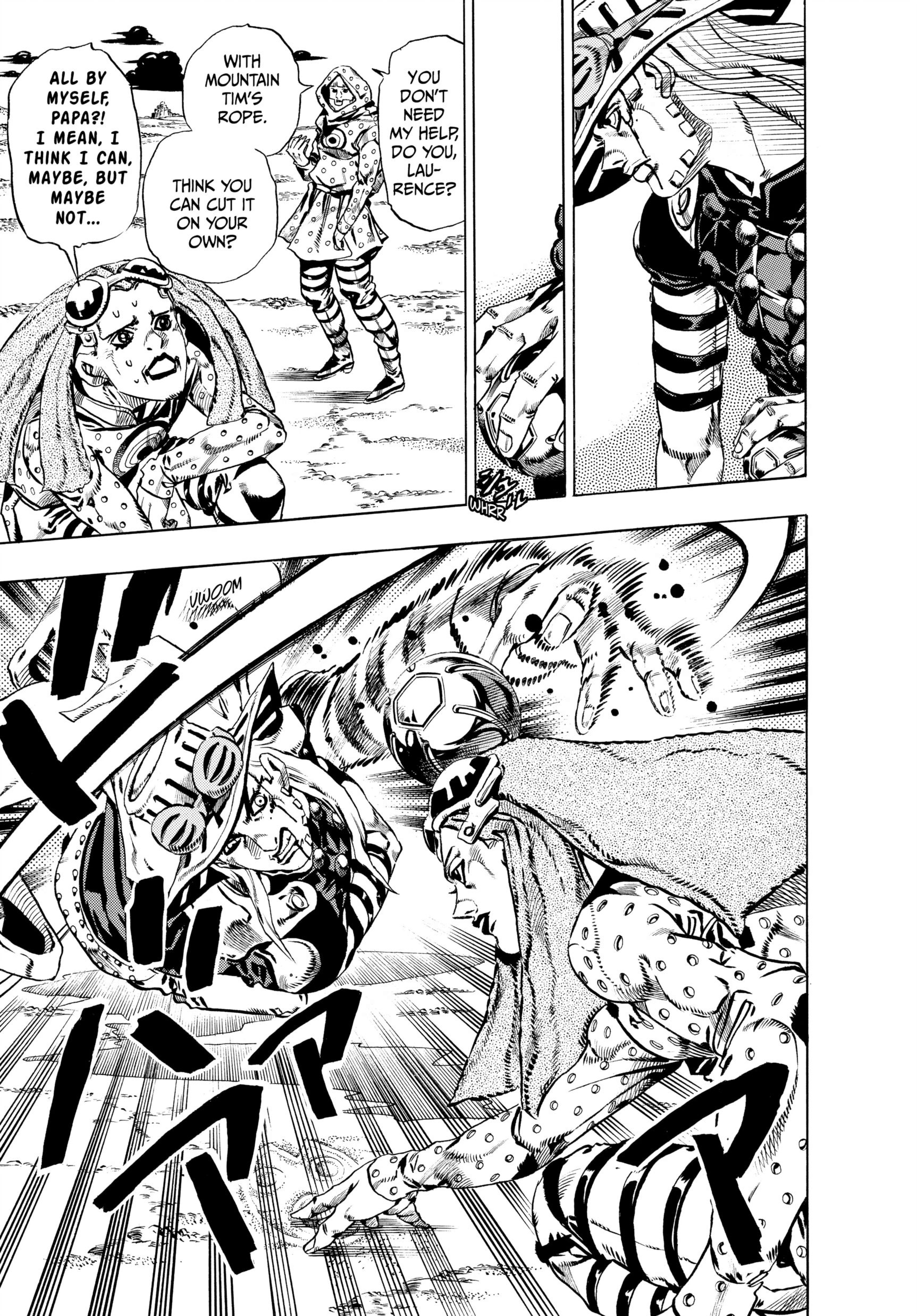

COMPASSES ARE NO GOOD THERE, AND IF THAT WEREN'T ENOUGH...
...THE SHIFTING SAND CAUSES THE VERY GROUND TO MOVE, SO WE WERE WELL AND TRULY LOST.
THE TERRAIN IS CONSTANTLY CHANGING. WE NOTICED WHOLE MOUNTAINS HAD SIMPLY DISAPPEARED. WE'D STUMBLE INTO VALLEYS WHERE THERE WAS ONCE FLAT, SOLID GROUND.
THEY SAY THAT THE DEVIL'S PALM CAN MOVE SEVERAL MILES IN A DAY.
EVEN IF YOU KNEW WHERE IT WAS A MONTH AGO, IT'D BE LONG GONE BY TODAY.
INDIAN LEGENDS TELL OF A METEORITE THAT FELL TO EARTH A LONG, LONG TIME AGO. IT DESTROYED EVERYTHING AND CURSED THE LAND.
NO ONE EVEN KNOWS HOW VAST THE AREA IS.
THERE'S NO WAY OF FINDIN' IT UNTIL YOU'RE ALREADY THERE. IT'S BEEN MOVING AROUND THESE PARTS FOR EONS.
WSSSSSSSSSH
ザ ザ ザ ザ ザ ザ ザ ザ ザ
N
W
E
S


IN THE END, WE NEVER MANAGED TO FIND WATER.
THE HORSES DIED.
EVENTUALLY, SO DID I.
WE WERE VERY LITERALLY BEING BAKED TO DEATH.
AND ONE BY ONE, MY FELLOW SOLDIERS DROPPED TO THE SAND.
BUT THAT LAND IS ALSO A PLACE WHERE DESTINY IS CHOSEN.
INEXPLICABLY, I WOKE UP.
IT WAS NIGHT.
AND THERE IN THE DARKNESS...
...TINY DROPS OF DEW...
...CLUNG TO MY ROPE.
WHILE I HAD BEEN UNCONSCIOUS...
...MY BODY HAD ABSORBED THE WATER...
GO
GO
GO
GO
GO
...THROUGH THE ROPE, WHICH HAD BECOME A PHYSICAL PART OF ME.
I WAS THE ONLY SURVIVOR.
GO
GO
GO
GO

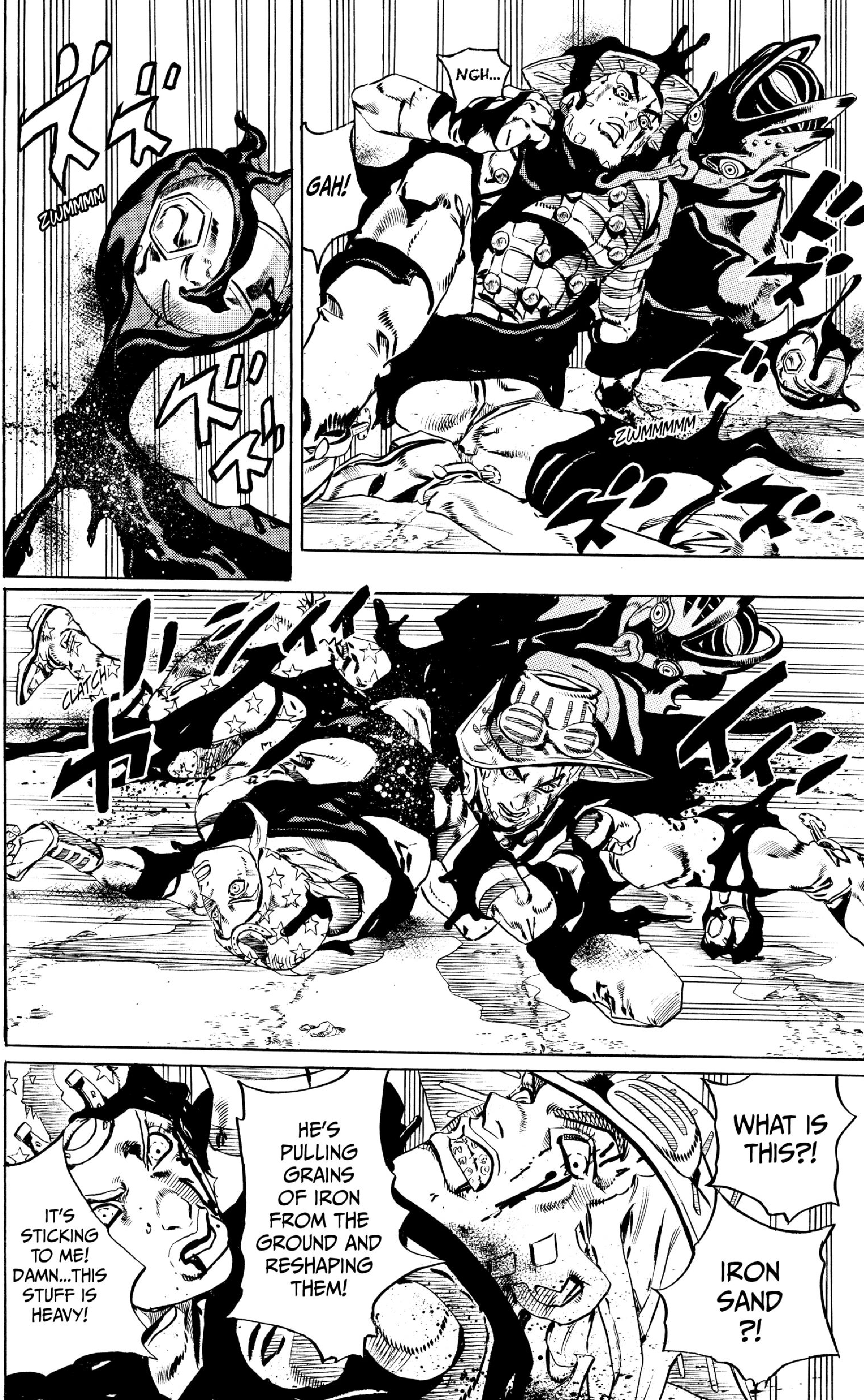

IT'S A FORCE I CAN ONLY DESCRIBE AS *GRAVITATIONAL.*
THE *DEVIL'S PALM* HAS THE POWER TO DRAW OUT AND AWAKEN A PERSON'S DORMANT POTENTIAL.
...
THE INDIANS CALL THEM *CURSED ABILITIES.*
AND MAYBE THEY'RE RIGHT. I SHOULD HAVE DIED ALONG WITH ALL THE OTHER MEN IN MY UNIT.
BUT PERSONALLY, I CALL THIS ABILITY SOMETHING ELSE— *A STAND.* 'CAUSE IT HELPS ME STAND UP TO MY TROUBLES.
AND THERE'S NO DOUBT IN MY MIND THAT THE BOOMBOOM FAMILY ALSO CROSSED INTO THE DEVIL'S PALM.
A STAND...
UWSSSH
THE MAGNETIC PULL FEELS WEAKER NOW.
IT'S WORKING. KEEP IT UP.
KEEP GETTING FARTHER AWAY WITH THAT ROPE!

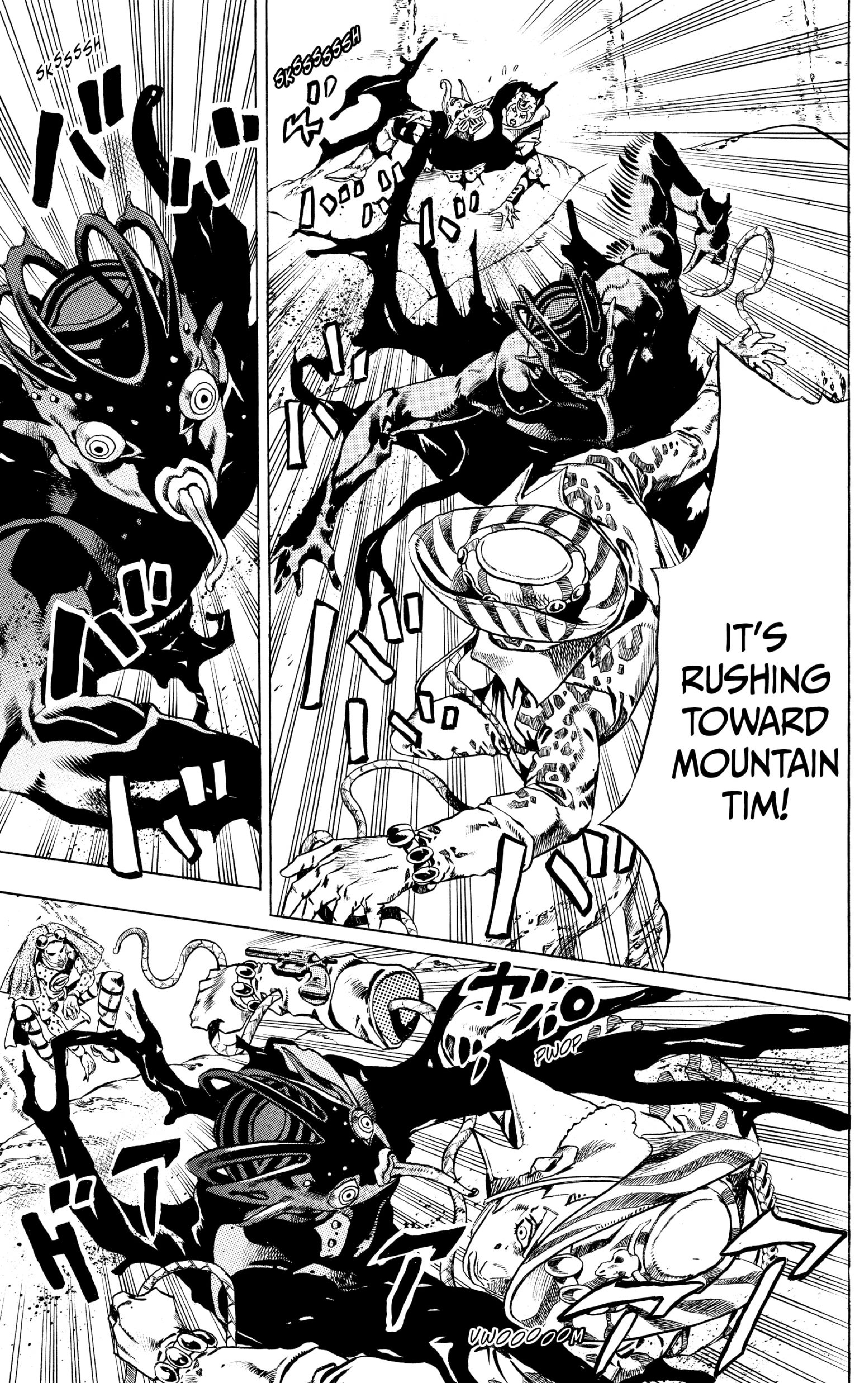

WHERE ARE THEY? I DON'T SEE HOW WE CAN KEEP RIDING UNLESS WE FIND THOSE COWARDS AND END THEM ONCE AND FOR ALL!
NO... I DON'T THINK YOU'LL NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THAT.
!
...
ZWMMMMM


ZWMMMM
ZWMM
WHRL
HEY!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO LOOKIN' FOR US, AND DON'T BOTHER TRYIN' TO GET AWAY, NEITHER.
THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY YOU CAN GO NOW...
...AND THAT'S TO EACH OTHER!
RIGHT? AIN'T THAT RIGHT, PAPA? THAT'S WHAT PAPA SAID.
IT'S THEM!

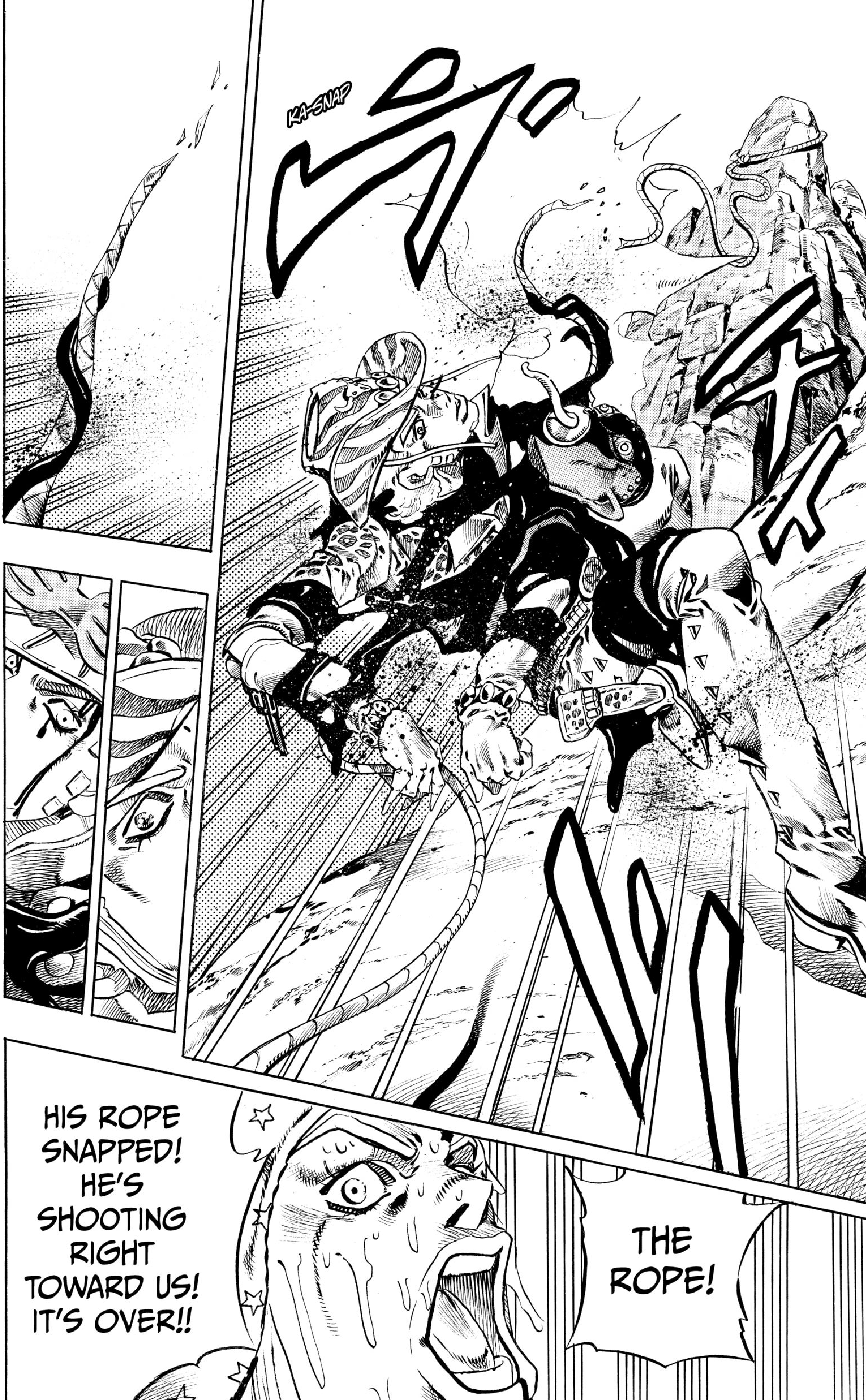

YOU DON'T NEED MY HELP, DO YOU, LAURENCE?
WITH MOUNTAIN TIM'S ROPE.
THINK YOU CAN CUT IT ON YOUR OWN?
ALL BY MYSELF, PAPA?! I MEAN, I THINK I CAN, MAYBE, BUT MAYBE NOT...
WHRR
VWOOM

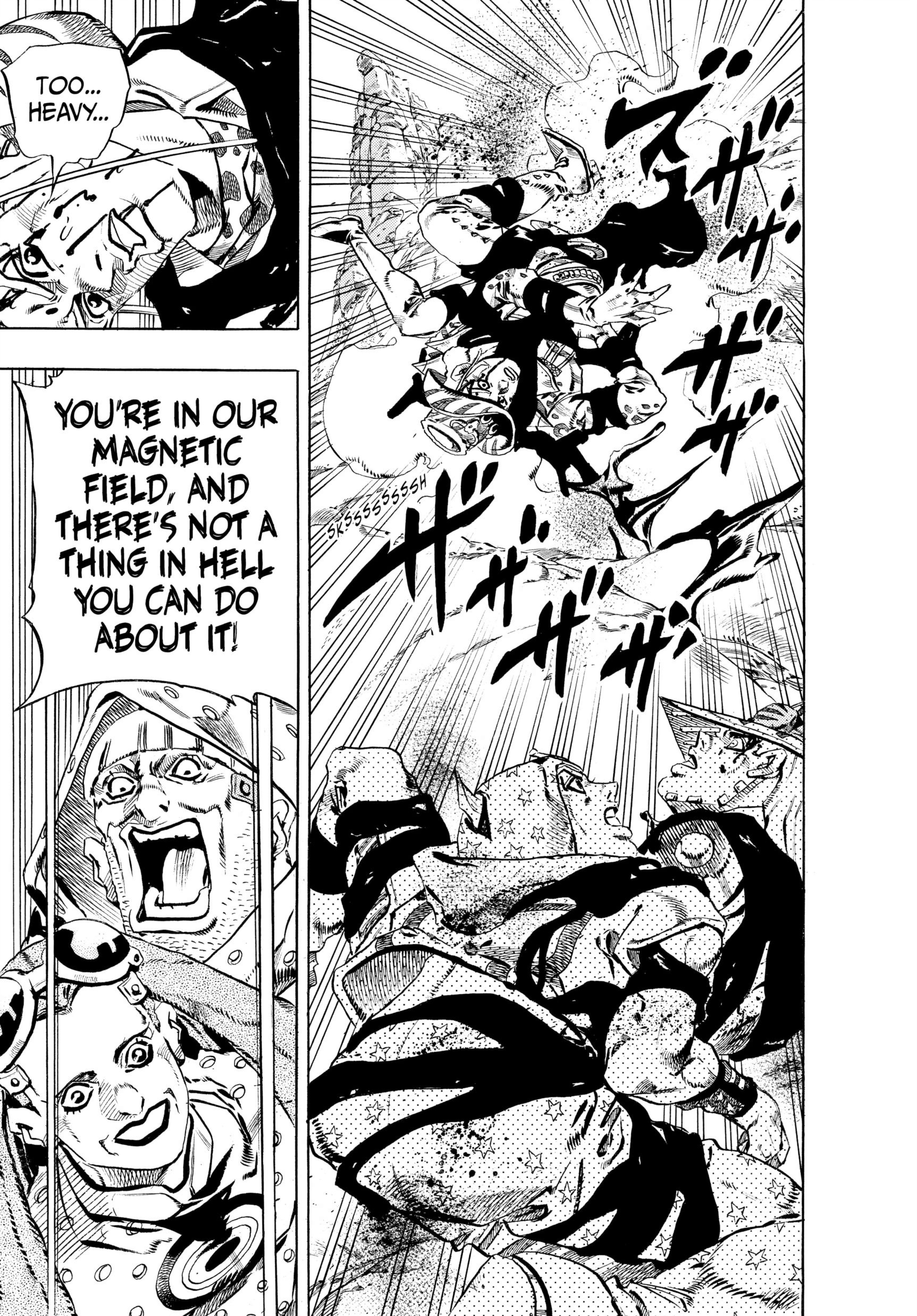
WHAAA
AAAAM
IRON SAND ...!

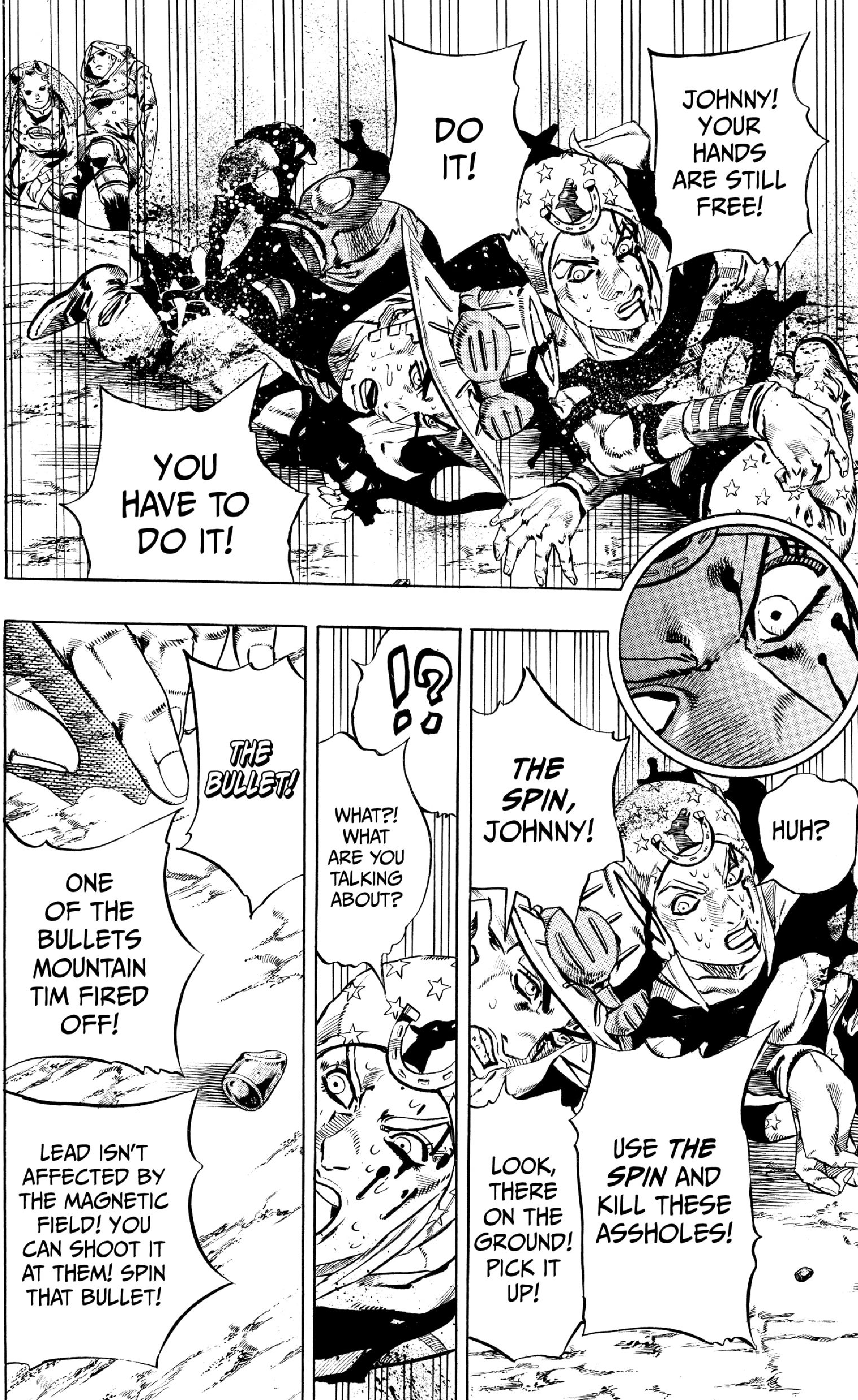

NGH...
GAH!
ZWMMMMM
ZWMMMM
CLATCH
WHAT IS THIS?!
IRON SAND ?!
HE'S PULLING GRAINS OF IRON FROM THE GROUND AND RESHAPING THEM!
IT'S STICKING TO ME! DAMN...THIS STUFF IS HEAVY!

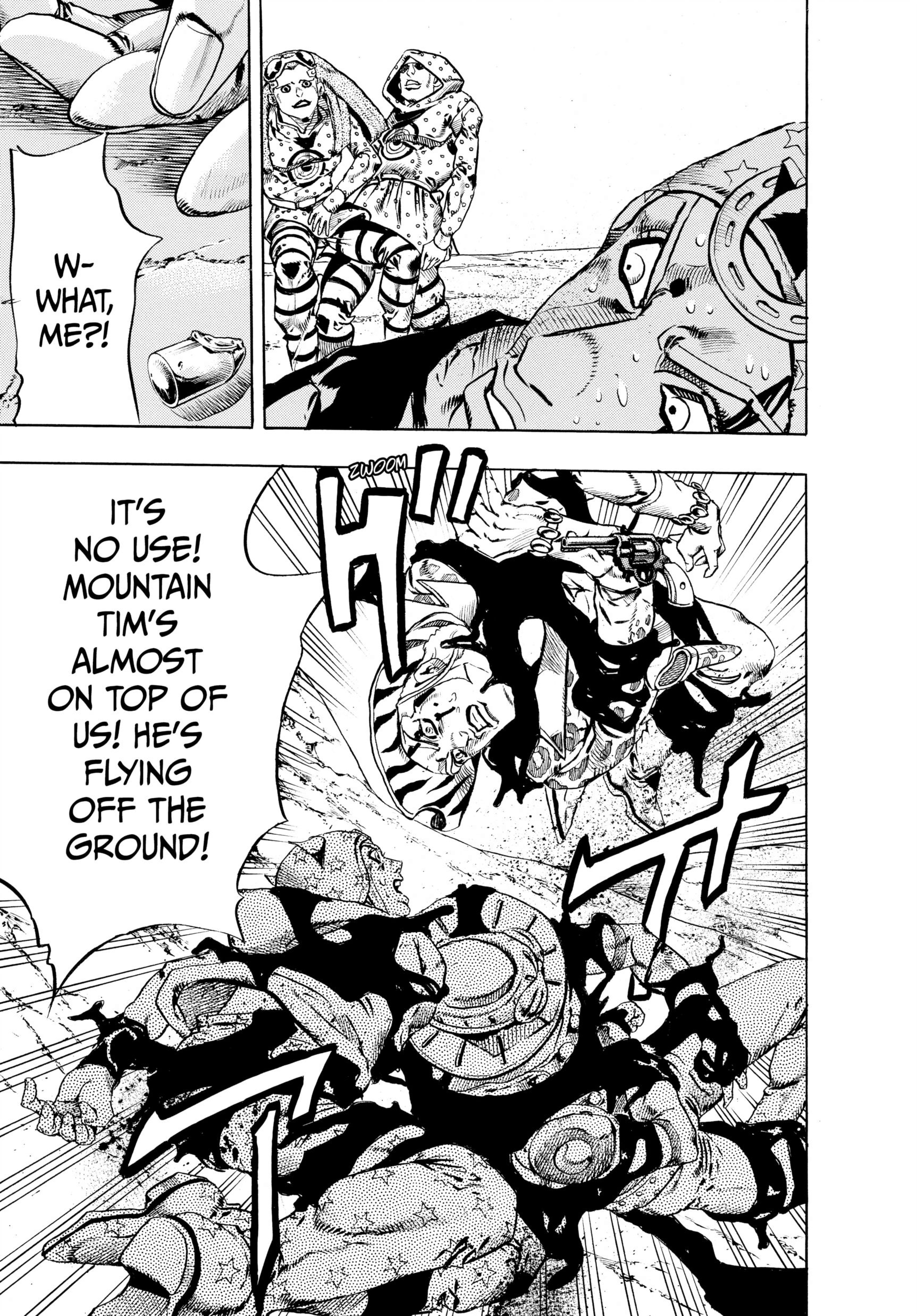

SKSSSSSSH
IT'S RUSHING TOWARD MOUNTAIN TIM!
SKSSSSH
PWOP
UWOOOOOM

BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
FWM
WHA?
KWAAANG
...
!
I KNEW YOU'D GET YOURSELF IN TROUBLE ON YOUR OWN!
PIN DOWN THEIR HANDS WITH THE SAND! DON'T GIVE THEM A CHANCE TO PULL SOMETHIN'.
IT'S A DAMN BLESSING, THIS IS.
I'D SAY WE'RE BLESSED, WOULDN'T YOU?
NOW HURRY UP AND CUT MOUNTAIN TIM'S ROPE.
YES, PAPA... I'M SO VERY BLESSED!

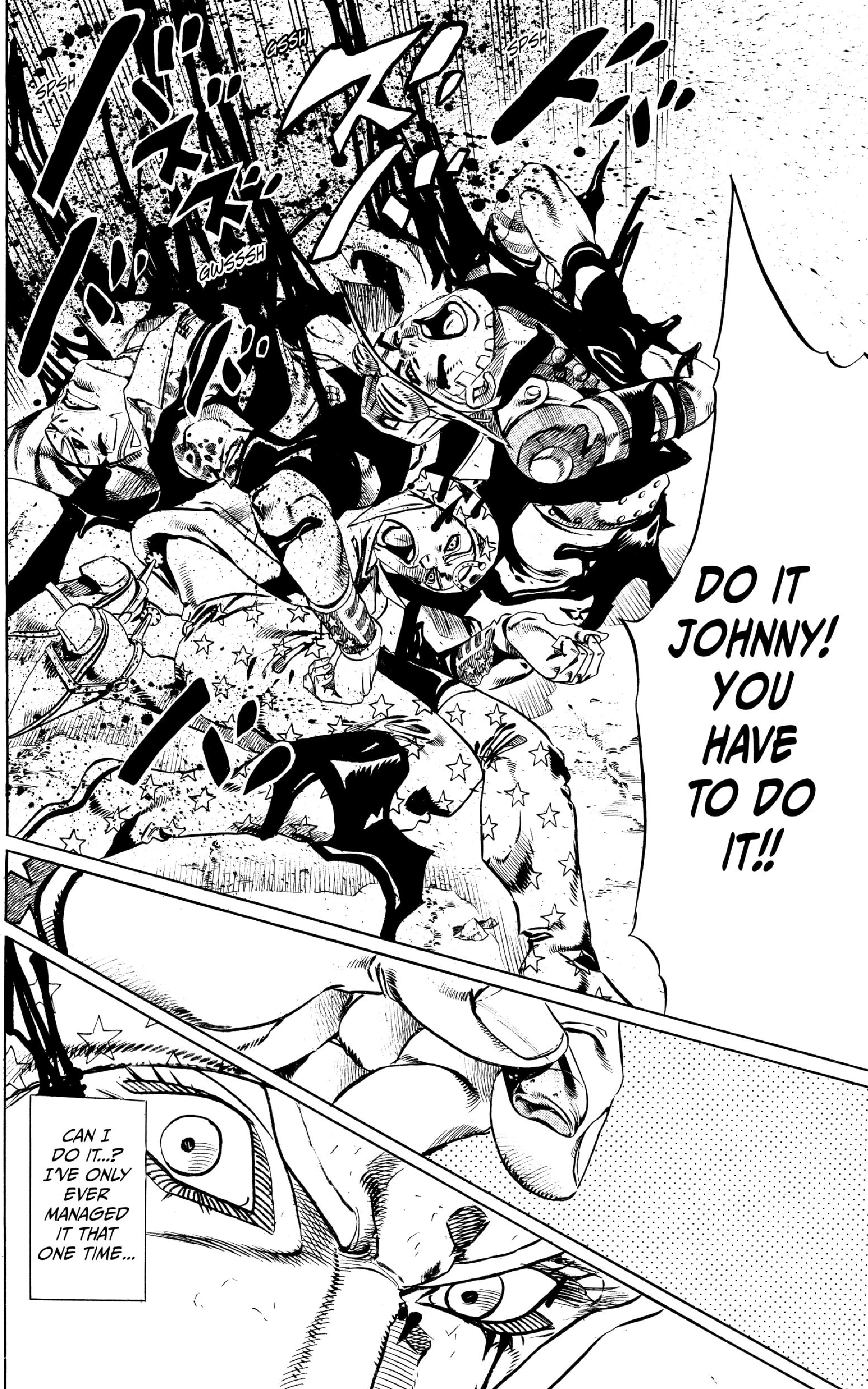

KA-SNAP
THE ROPE!
HIS ROPE SNAPPED! HE'S SHOOTING RIGHT TOWARD US! IT'S OVER!!

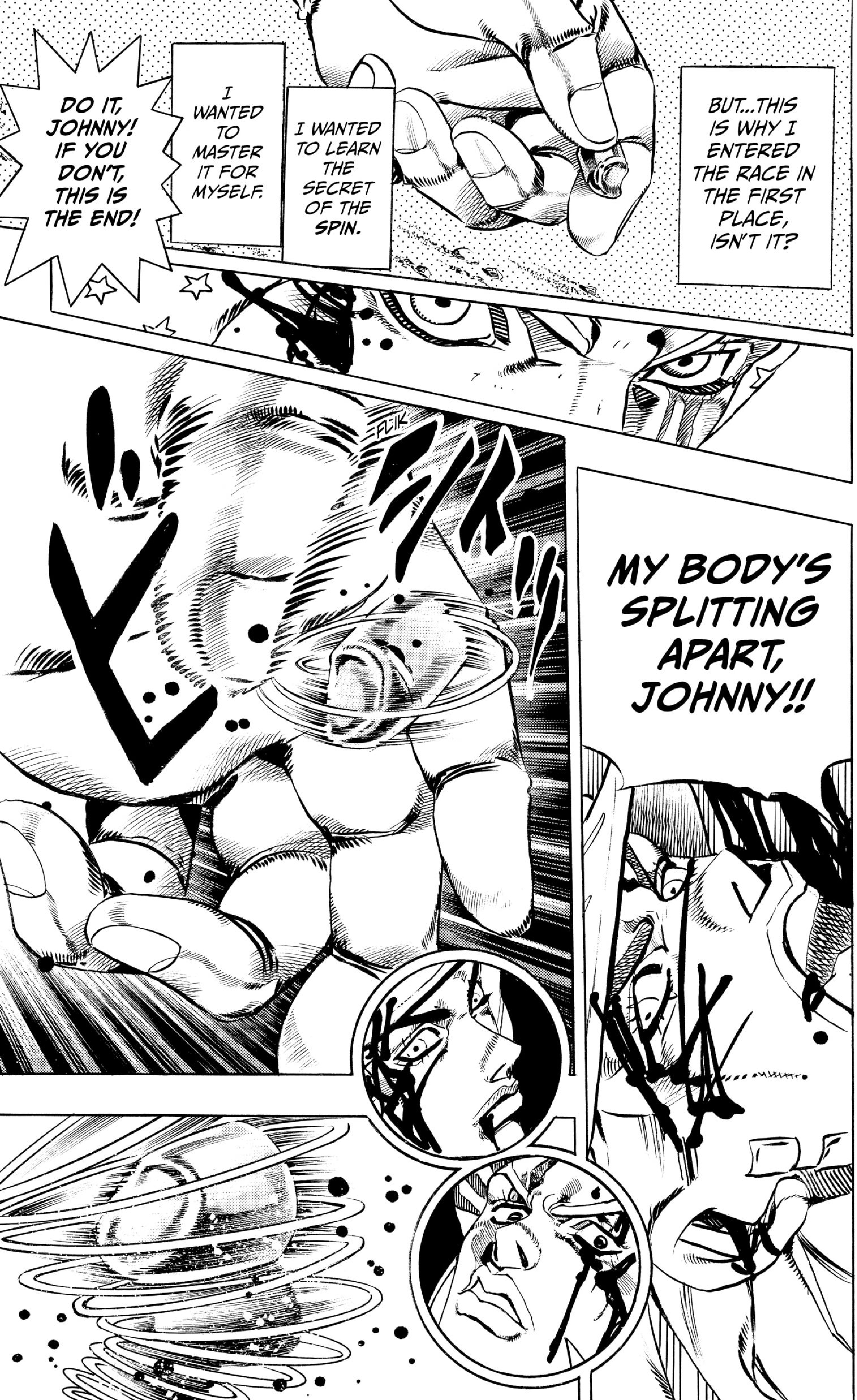

ヴザザザザ
ザザザザ
SKSSSSSSSSH
TOO... HEAVY...
YOU'RE IN OUR MAGNETIC FIELD, AND THERE'S NOT A THING IN HELL YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT!


JOHNNY! YOUR HANDS ARE STILL FREE!
DO IT!
YOU HAVE TO DO IT!
HUH?
THE SPIN, JOHNNY!
USE THE SPIN AND KILL THESE ASSHOLES!
LOOK, THERE ON THE GROUND! PICK IT UP!
!?
WHAT?! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THE BULLET!
ONE OF THE BULLETS MOUNTAIN TIM FIRED OFF!
LEAD ISN'T AFFECTED BY THE MAGNETIC FIELD! YOU CAN SHOOT IT AT THEM! SPIN THAT BULLET!

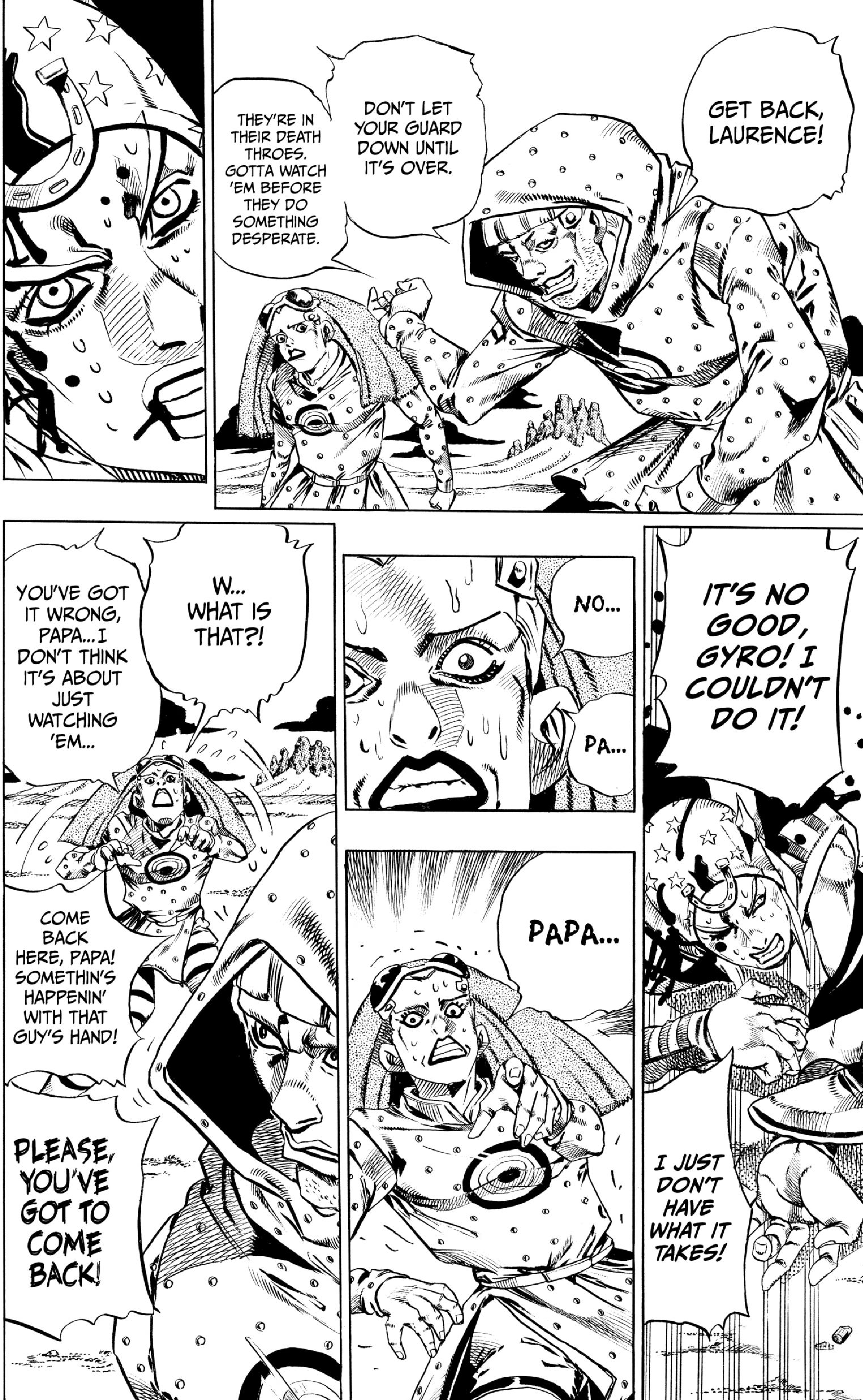

W-WHAT, ME?!
ZWOOM
IT'S NO USE! MOUNTAIN TIM'S ALMOST ON TOP OF US! HE'S FLYING OFF THE GROUND!

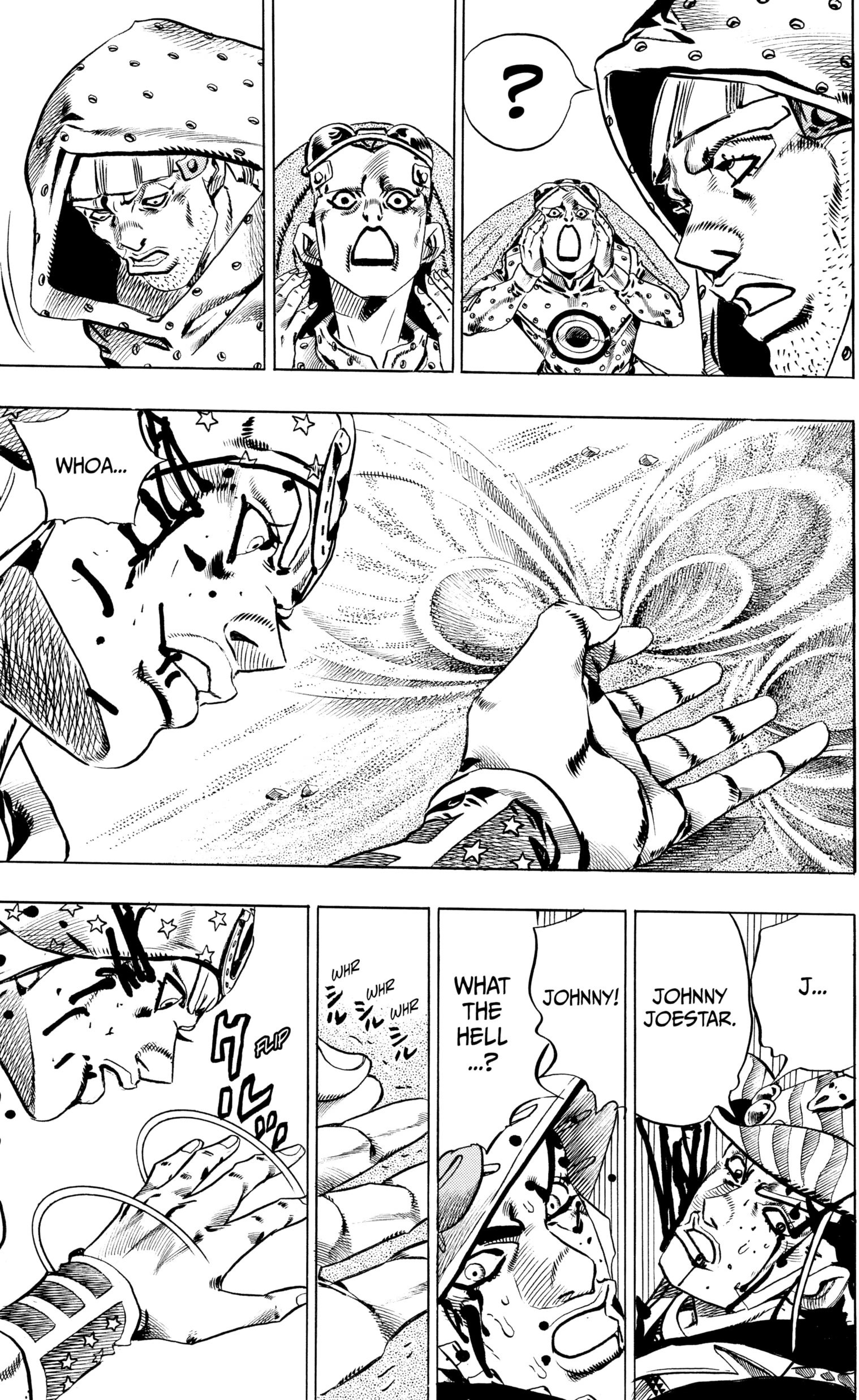
JOHNNY! IT'S NOW OR NEVER! THIS IS LESSON NO. 3!
GO! GO! ZEPPELI
BACK AT CAMP, YOU SAID YOU MADE THE CORK SPIN! THE BULLET IS NO DIFFERENT! SHOOT IT AT THEM!
BELIEVE IN THE SPIN! THE SPIN HAS LIMITLESS POWER! BELIEVE IN IT!
BUT... BUT THAT CORK WAS...
IT WAS...
...JUST DUMB LUCK!
THEY'RE FINALLY STUCK TOGETHER! I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE HOW FAR THEIR INSIDES SHOOT OUT! D'YA THINK WE CAN SET A NEW RECORD WITH THEIR INTESTINES?!
SPSH
SPSH
SPSH
SPSH
SPSH
AUGH!
SPSSSH
AAAA AAAGH! I'M BEING TORN APART!
SLAAAAM

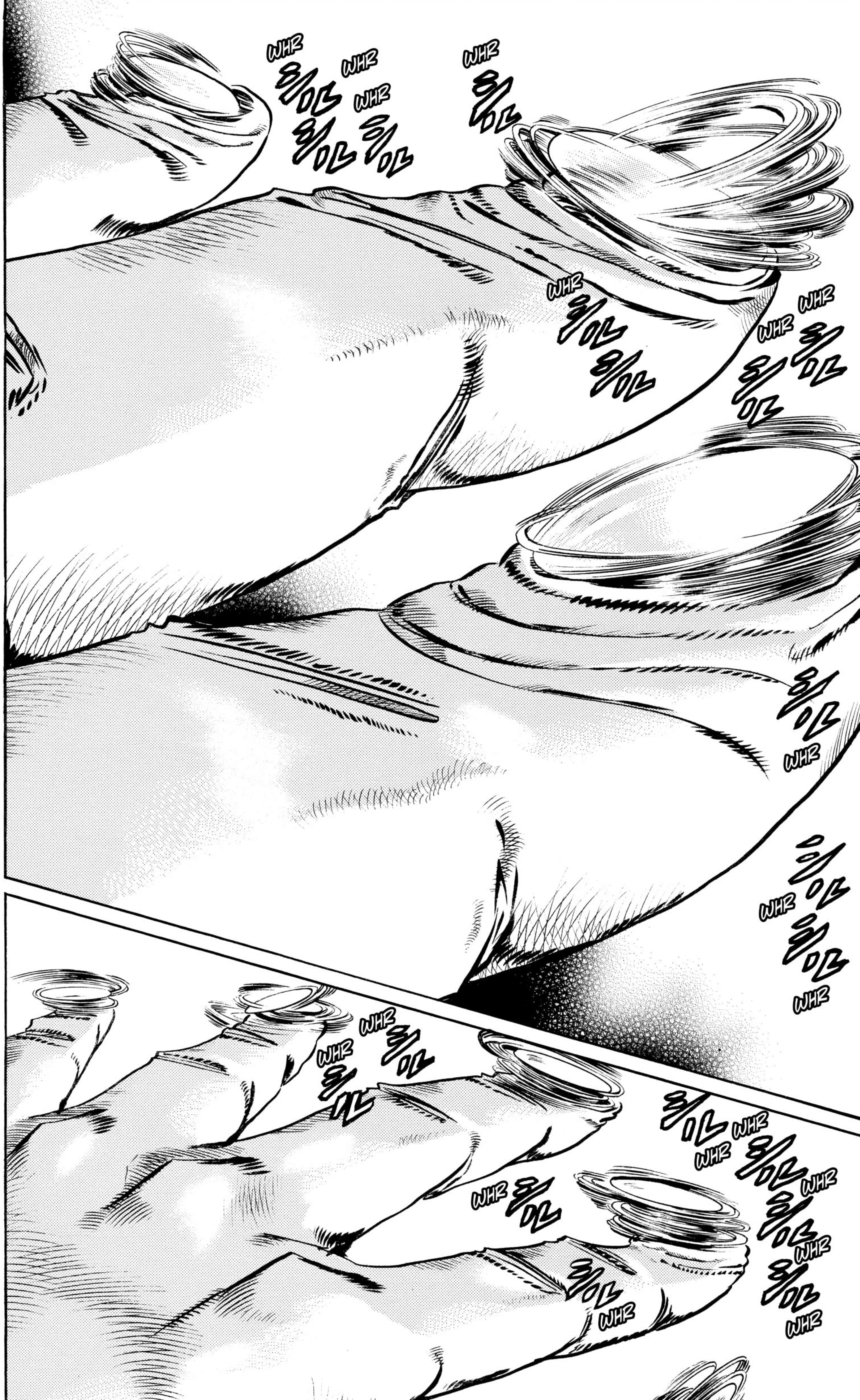

SPSH
GSSH
SPSH
GWSSSH
DO IT JOHNNY! YOU HAVE TO DO IT!!
CAN I DO IT...? I'VE ONLY EVER MANAGED IT THAT ONE TIME...


BUT...THIS IS WHY I ENTERED THE RACE IN THE FIRST PLACE, ISN'T IT?
I WANTED TO LEARN THE SECRET OF THE SPIN.
I WANTED TO MASTER IT FOR MYSELF.
DO IT, JOHNNY! IF YOU DON'T, THIS IS THE END!
FLIK
MY BODY'S SPLITTING APART, JOHNNY!!

WHRRRR
WHRRRRRR
IT'S...IT'S SPINNING! IT'S SPINNING, GYRO!!
STOMP
…
TUMBL
TUMBL
TUMBL
TUMBL
DOOM


GET BACK, LAURENCE!
DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN UNTIL IT'S OVER.
THEY'RE IN THEIR DEATH THROES. GOTTA WATCH 'EM BEFORE THEY DO SOMETHING DESPERATE.
IT'S NO GOOD, GYRO! I COULDN'T DO IT!
I JUST DON'T HAVE WHAT IT TAKES!
NO...
PA...
PAPA...
W... WHAT IS THAT?!
YOU'VE GOT IT WRONG, PAPA...I DON'T THINK IT'S ABOUT JUST WATCHING 'EM...
COME BACK HERE, PAPA! SOMETHIN'S HAPPENIN' WITH THAT GUY'S HAND!
PLEASE, YOU'VE GOT TO COME BACK!


?
WHOA...
J...
JOHNNY JOESTAR.
JOHNNY!
WHAT THE HELL ...?
WHR シル
WHR シル
WHR シル
FLIP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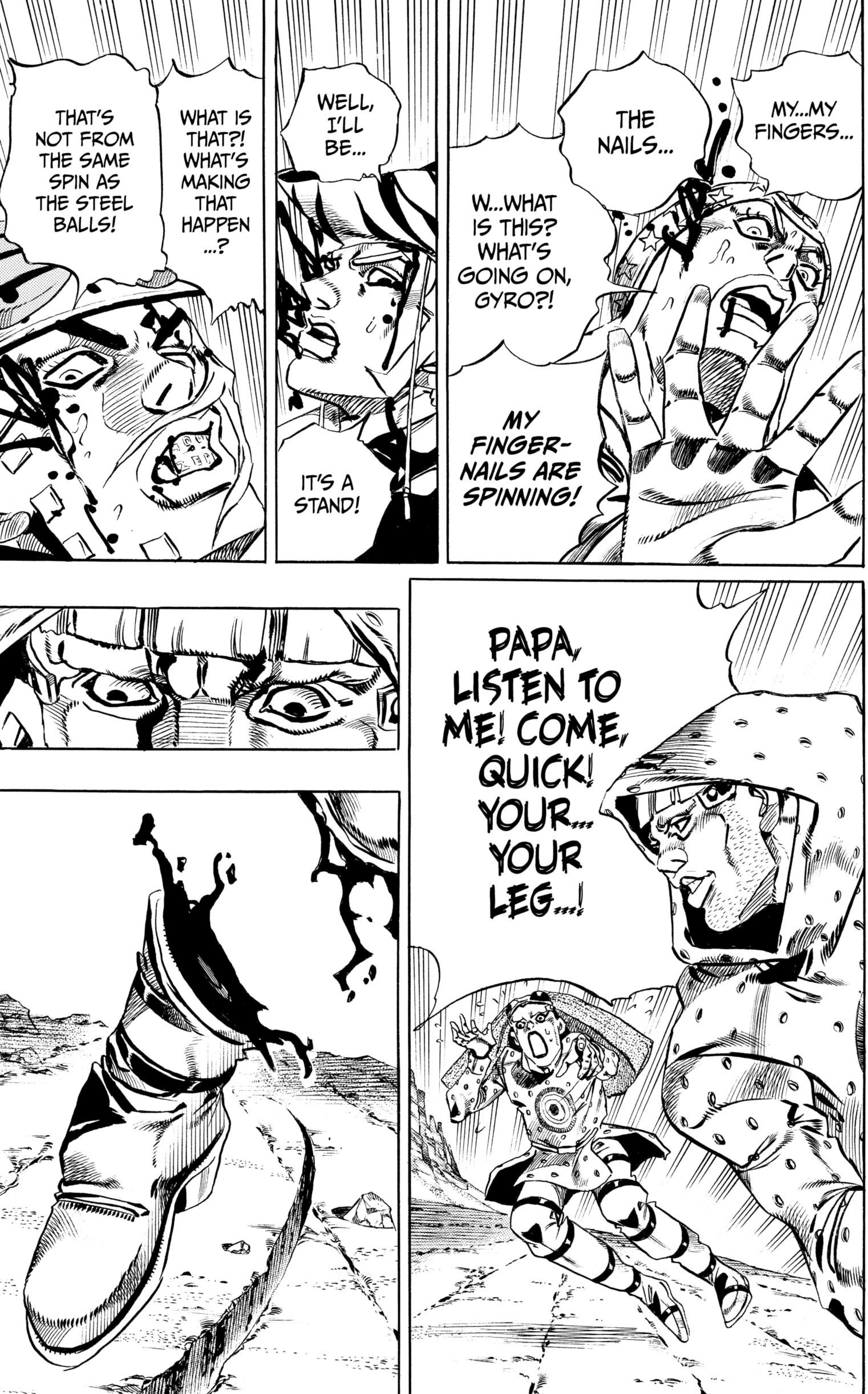
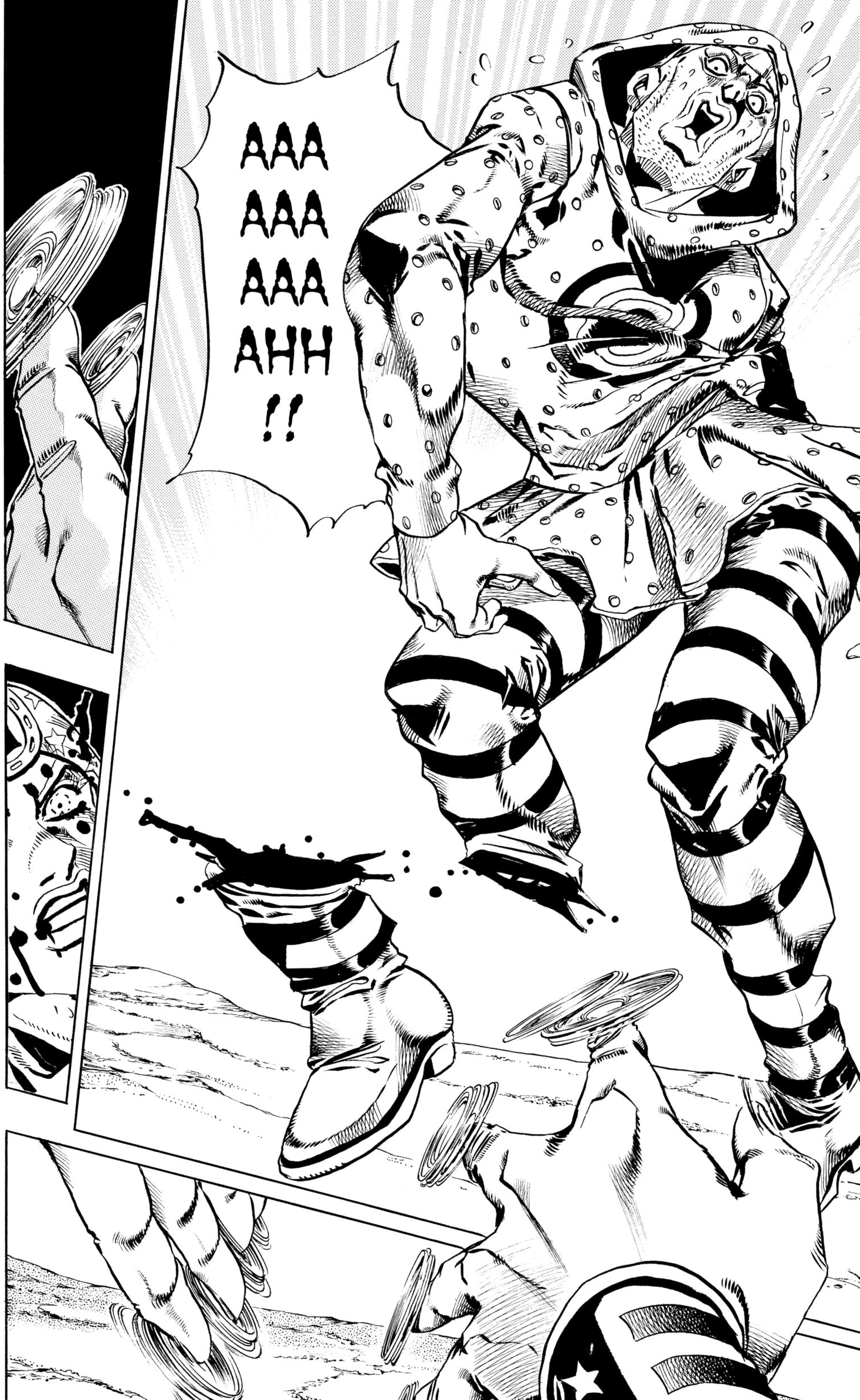
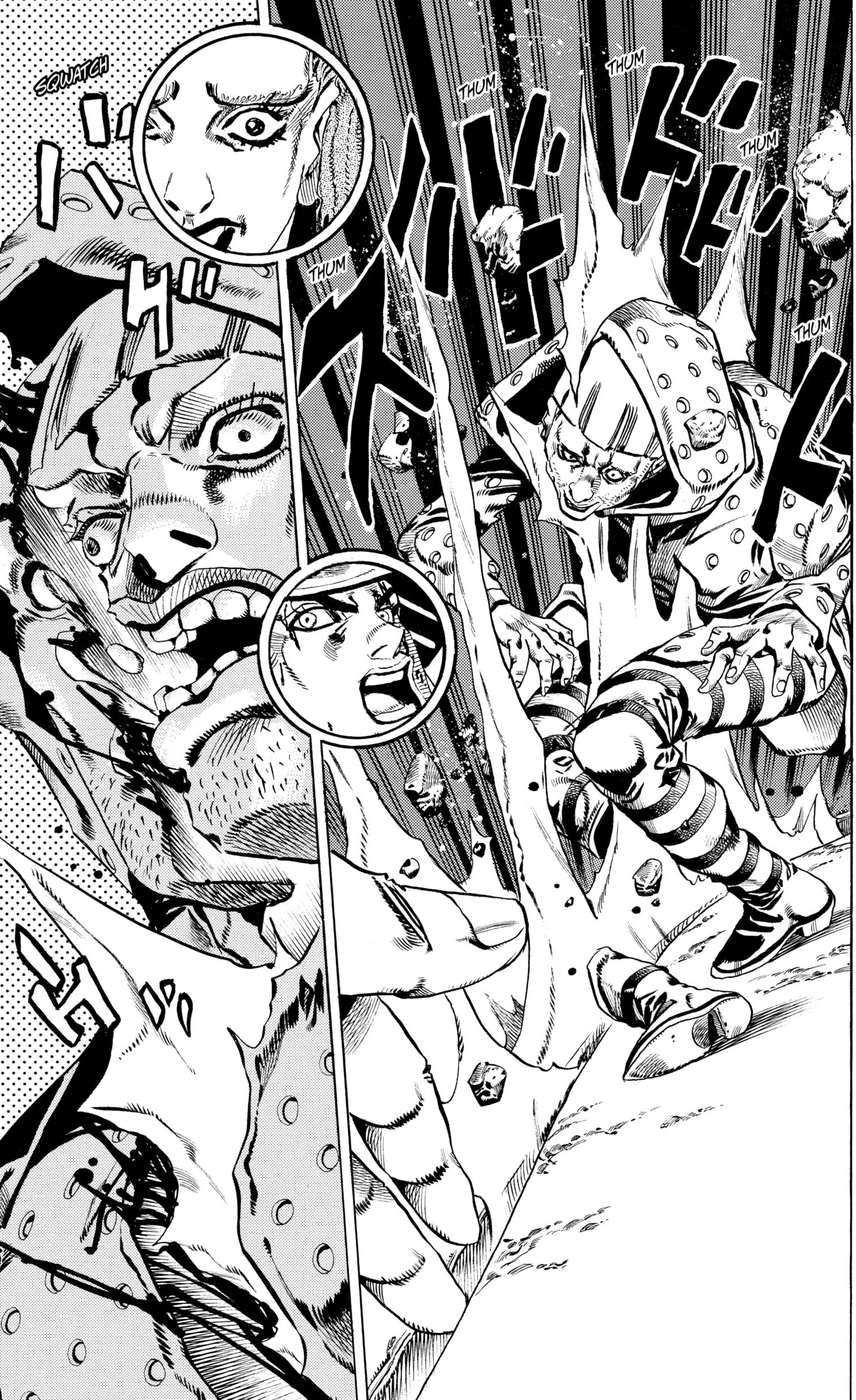
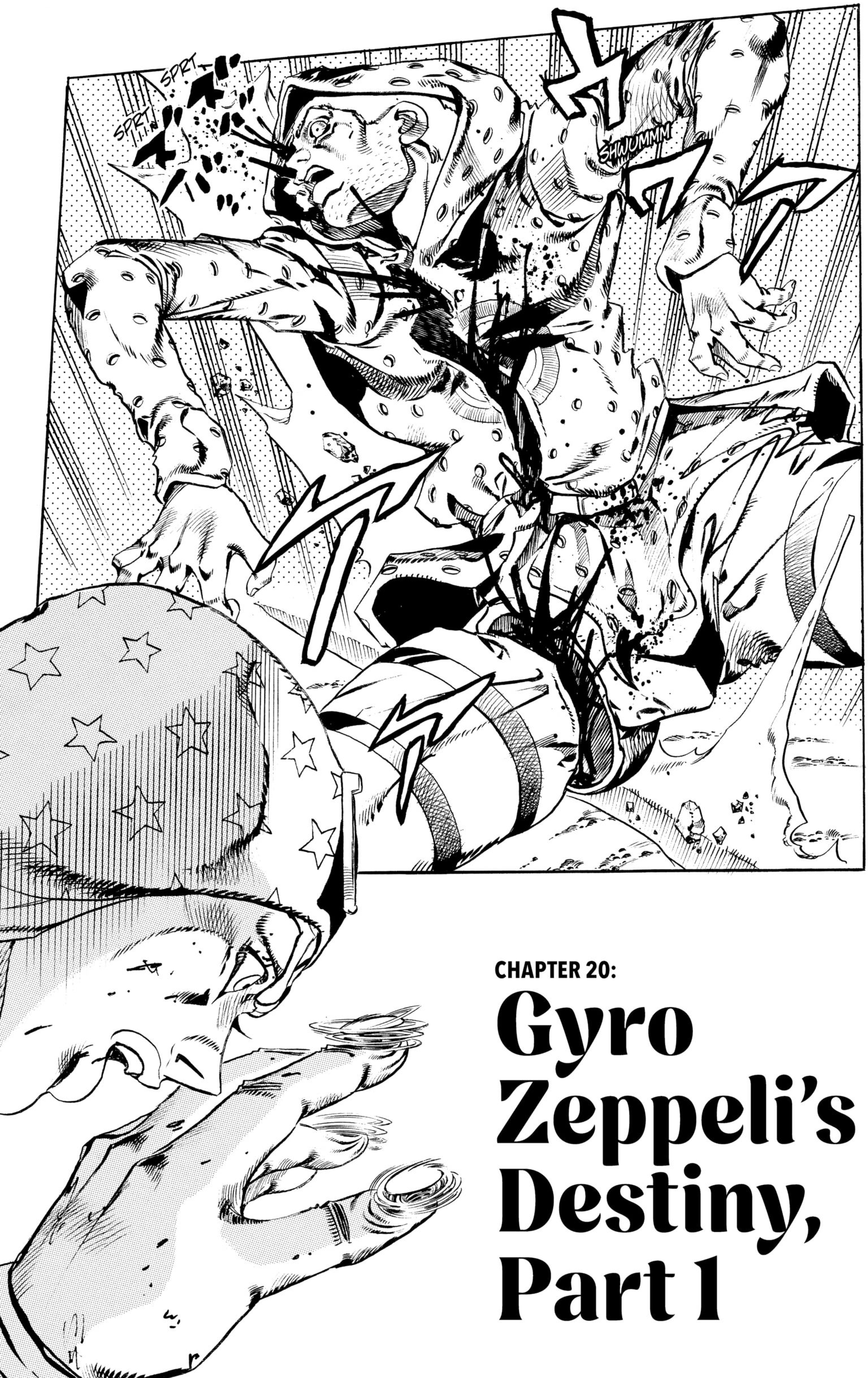

MY...MY FINGERS...
THE NAILS...
W...WHAT IS THIS? WHAT'S GOING ON, GYRO?!
MY FINGER-NAILS ARE SPINNING!
WELL, I'LL BE...
IT'S A STAND!
WHAT IS THAT?! WHAT'S MAKING THAT HAPPEN ...?
THAT'S NOT FROM THE SAME SPIN AS THE STEEL BALLS!
PAPA, LISTEN TO ME! COME, QUICK! YOUR... YOUR LEG...!


AAA
AAA
AAA
AHH
!!

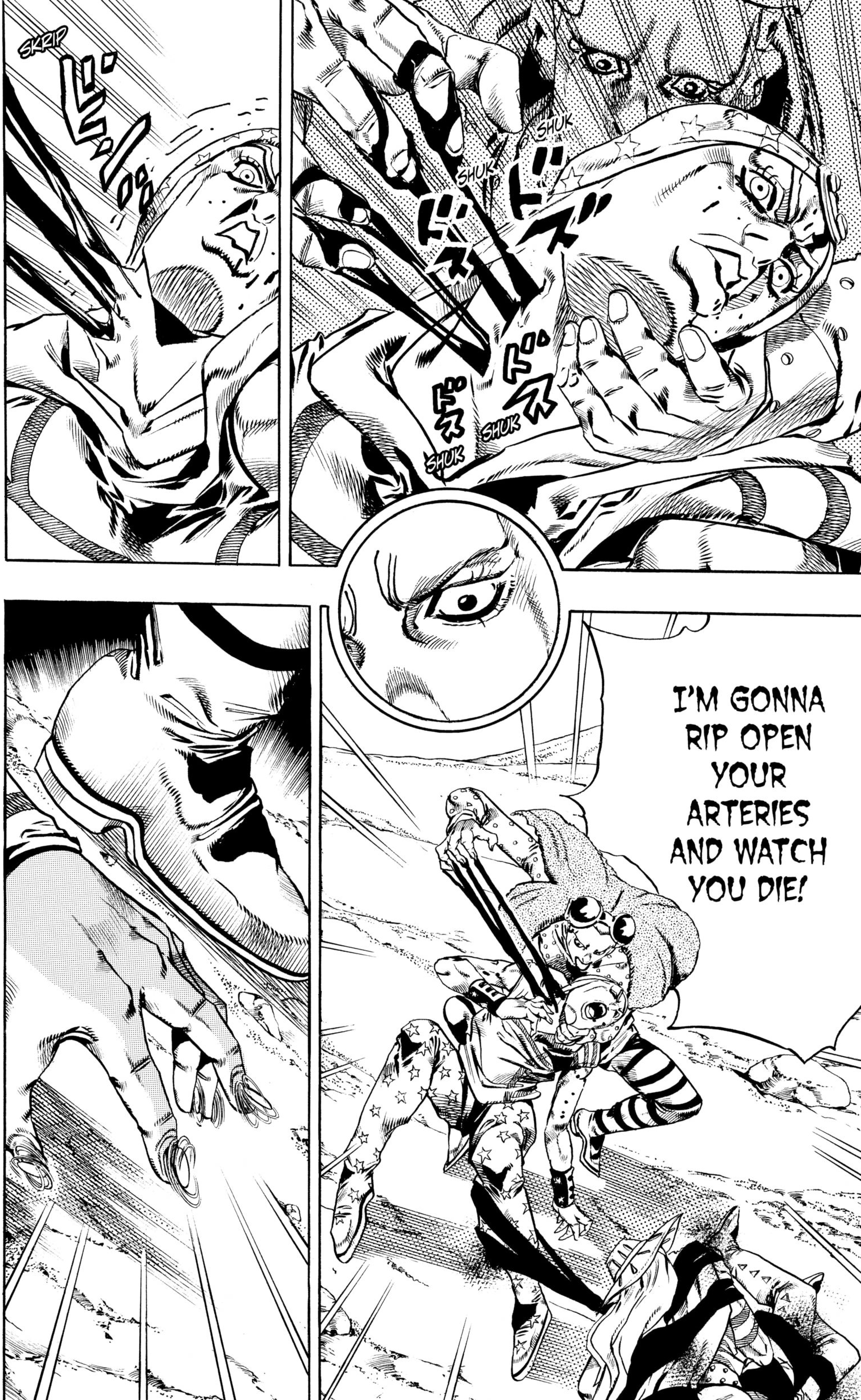

THUM
THUM
THUM
THUM
THUM
SQWATCH

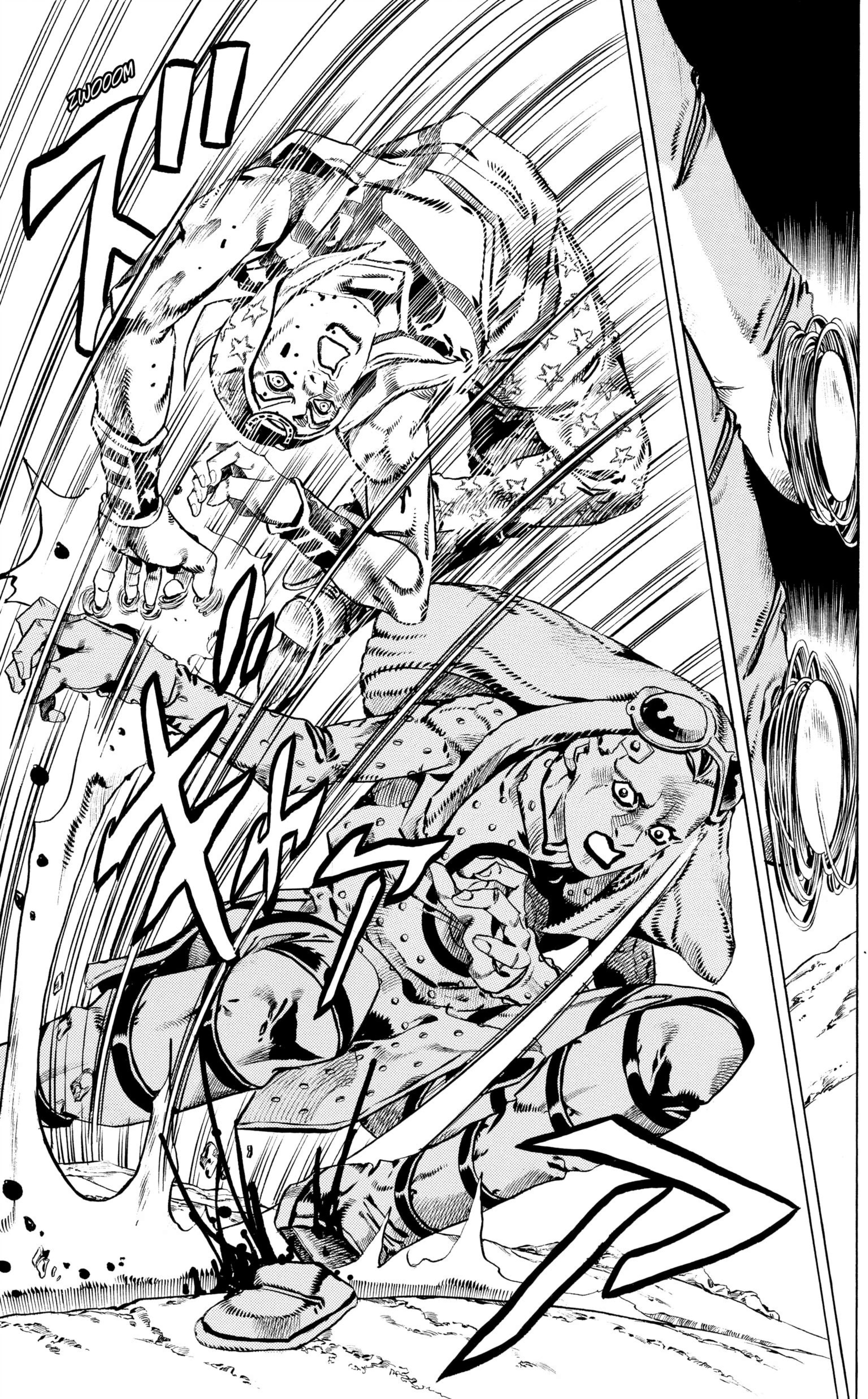

SPRT
SPRT
SHWUMMM

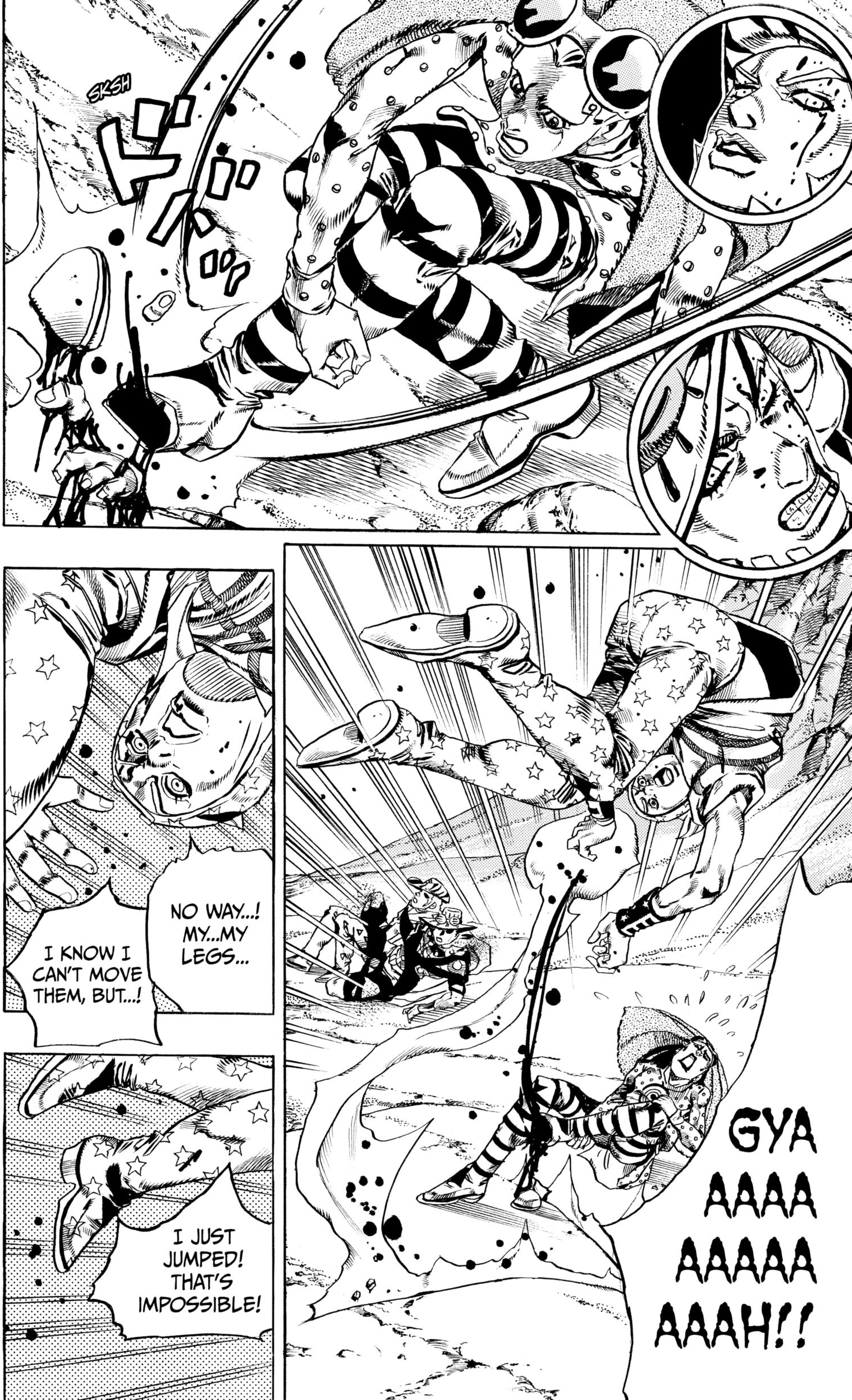
CHAPTER 20:

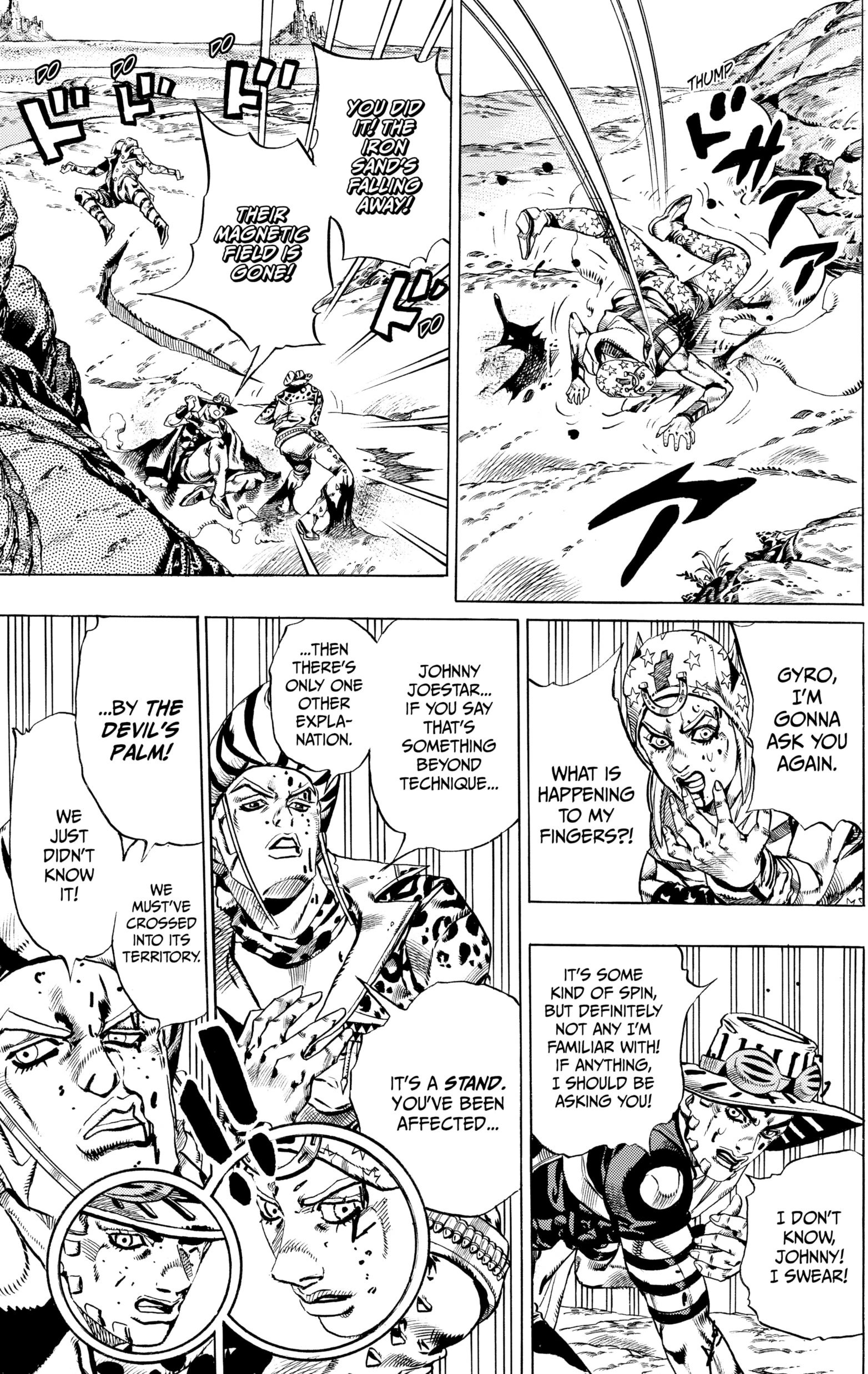
Gyro Zeppeli’s Destiny, Part 1

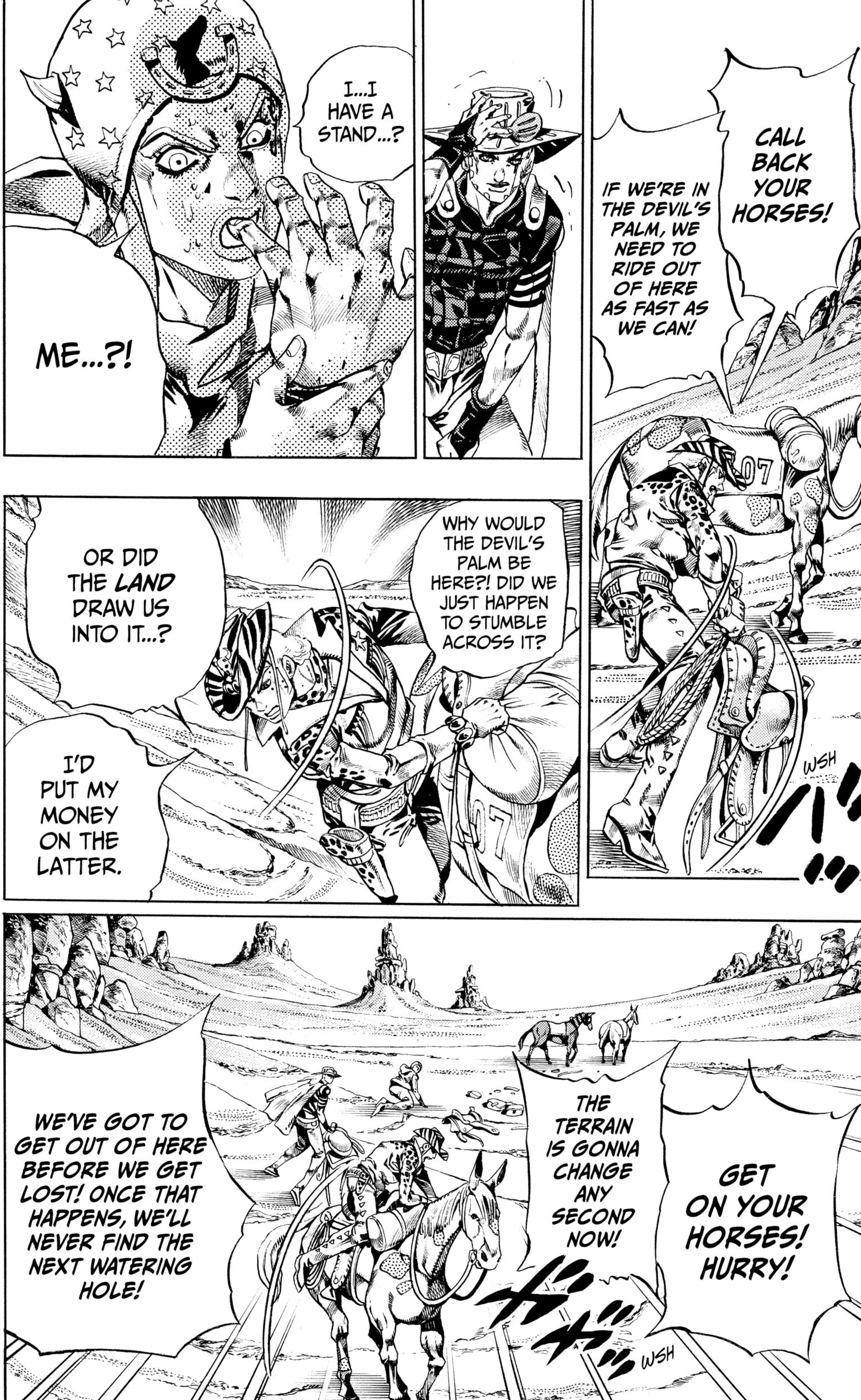
DO
WHAT IS THIS?!
GYRO! YOU WANNA TELL ME WHAT THE HECK IS GOING ON? MY FINGERNAILS STOPPED SPINNING, BUT... WHAT WAS THAT?!
DO
DO
DO
WHAT HAPPENED TO MY FINGERS?!
DO
DO
DO
I DON'T HAVE A CLUE...
WHATEVER THAT WAS, IT'S NOT PART OF THE SPIN I'M USED TO.
IS IT POSSIBLE ...?
DID HE...?
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO
YOU BASTARD!! WHAT DID YOU DO TO MY PAPA?!
VWOOOM

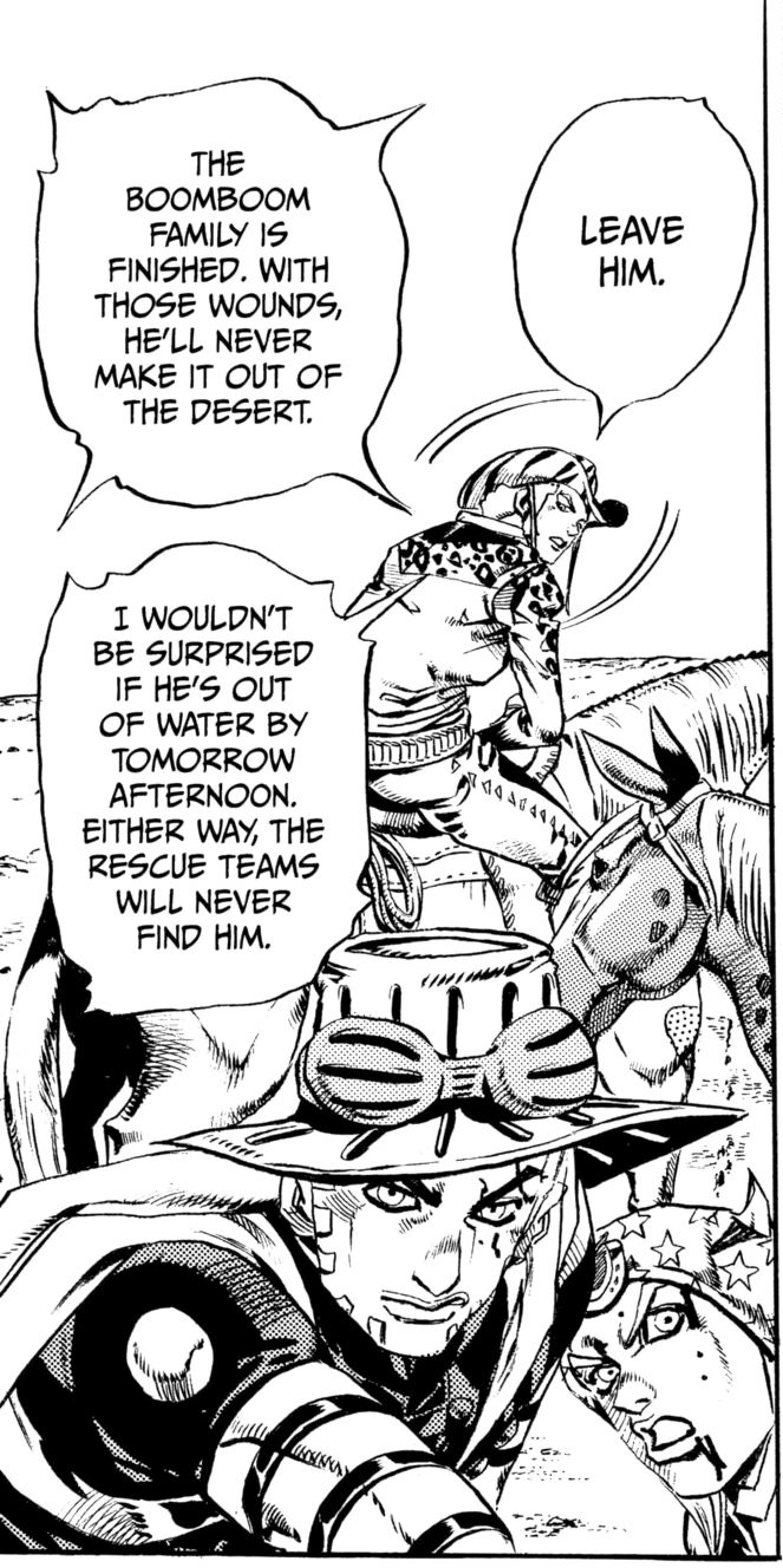

SHUK
SHUK
SHUK
SHUK
SKRIP
I'M GONNA RIP OPEN YOUR ARTERIES AND WATCH YOU DIE!

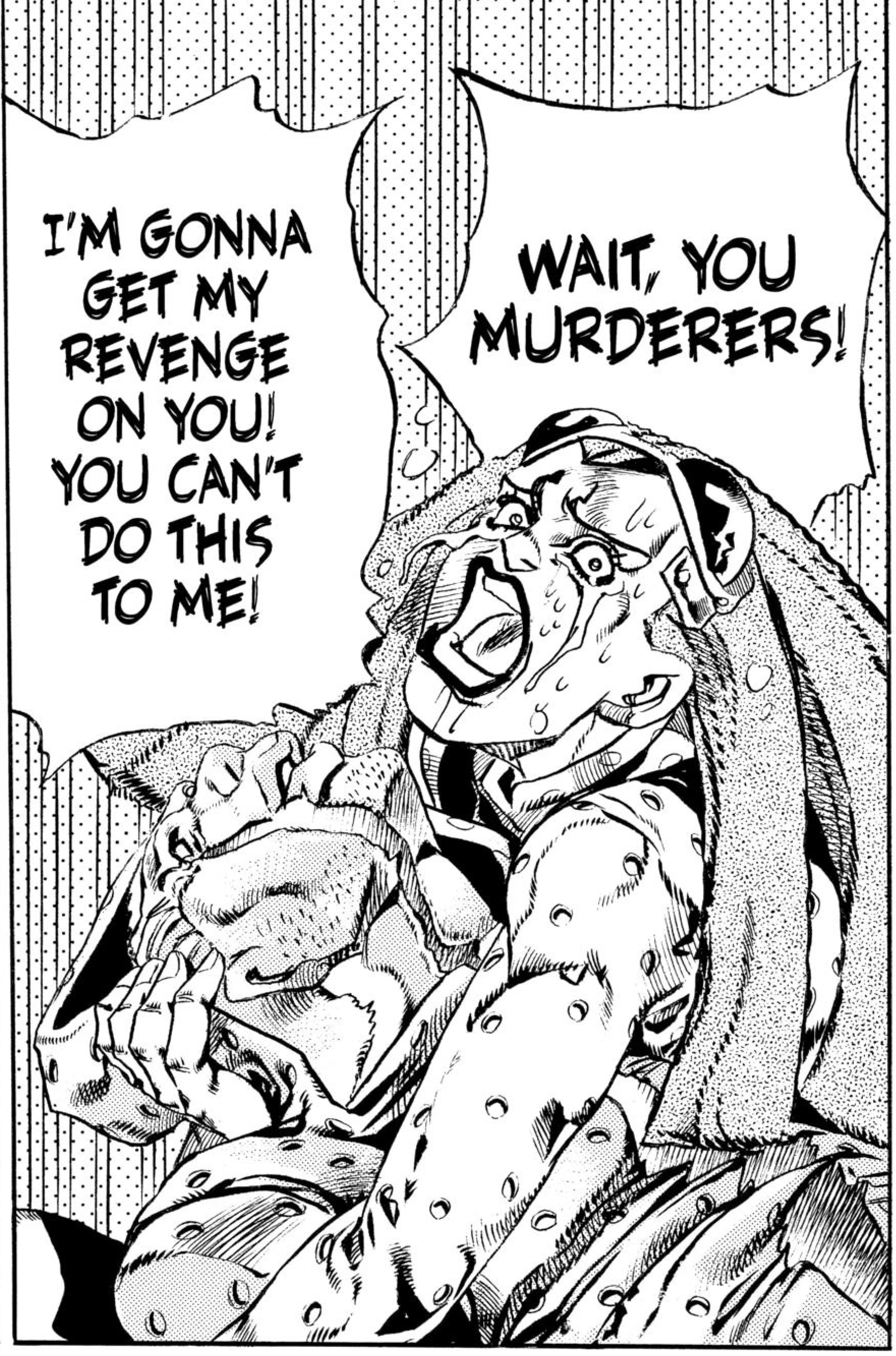

ZWOOOM

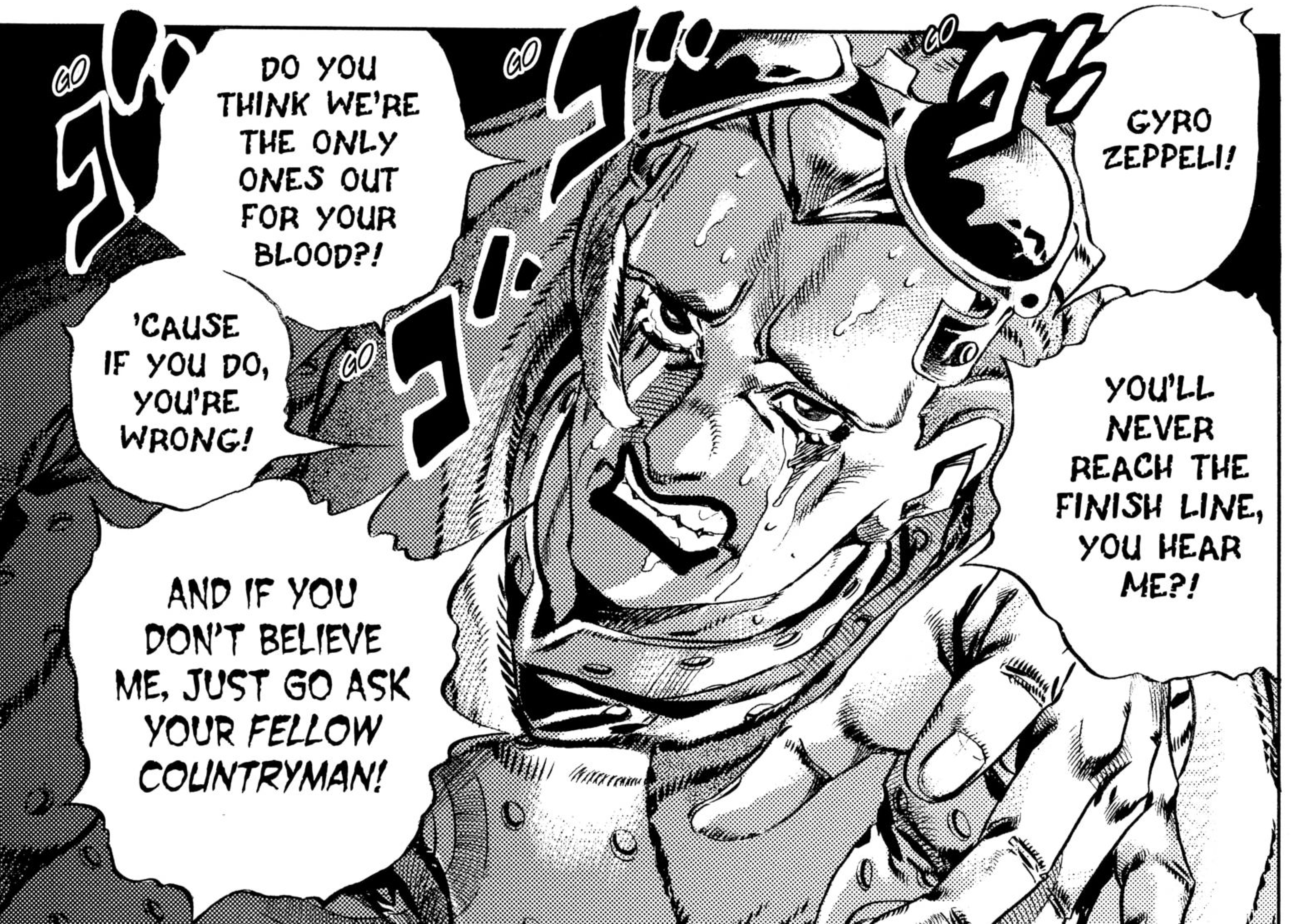

SKSH
GYA AAAA AAAAA AAAH!!
NO WAY...! MY...MY LEGS...
I KNOW I CAN'T MOVE THEM, BUT...!
I JUST JUMPED! THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

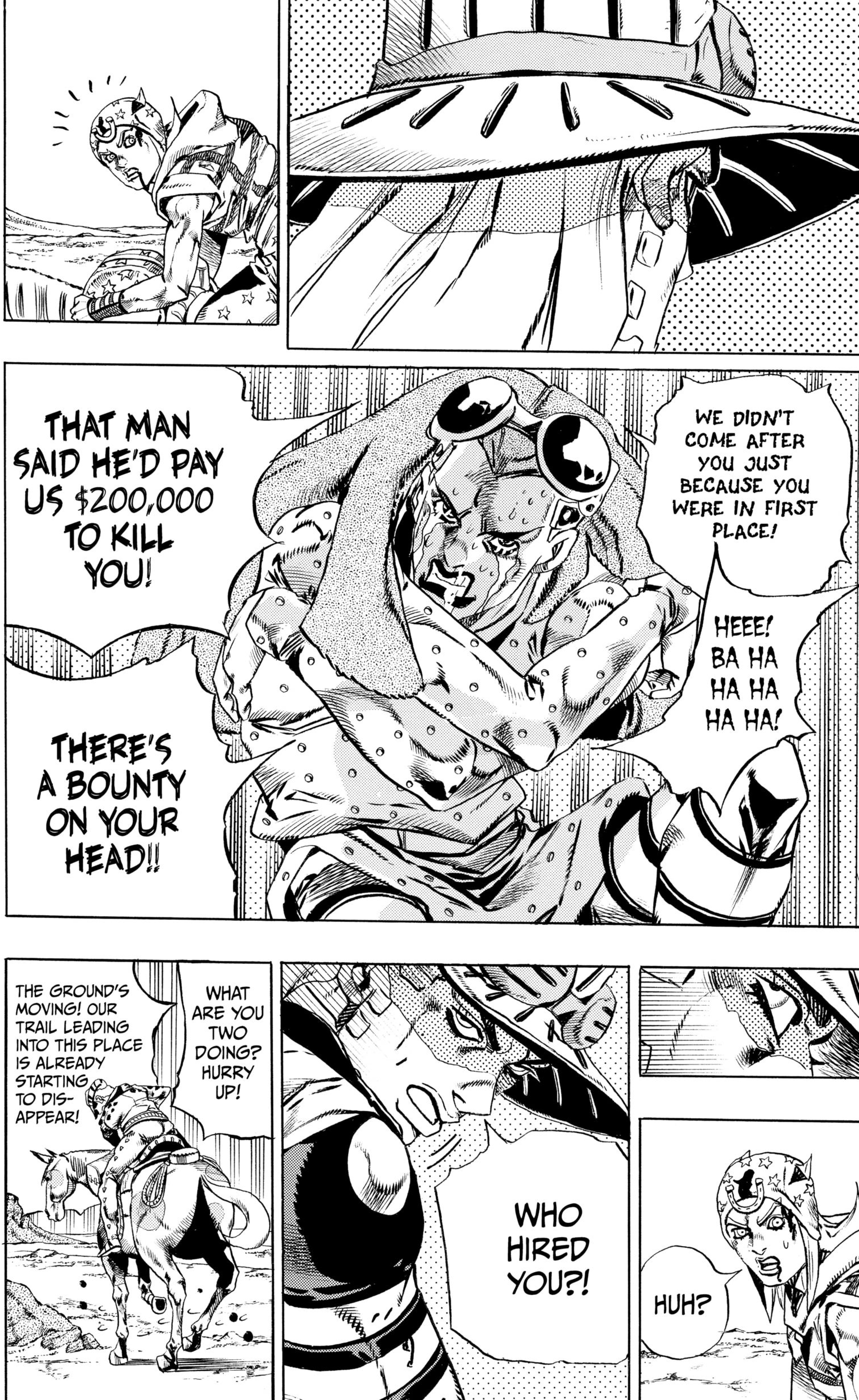

THUMP
ドサァア
DO DO DO
ドドド
YOU DID IT! THE IRON SAND'S FALLING AWAY!
THEIR MAGNETIC FIELD IS GONE!
ド DO
GYRO, I'M GONNA ASK YOU AGAIN.
WHAT IS HAPPENING TO MY FINGERS?!
JOHNNY JOESTAR... IF YOU SAY THAT'S SOMETHING BEYOND TECHNIQUE...
...THEN THERE'S ONLY ONE OTHER EXPLANATION.
...BY THE DEVIL'S PALM!
IT'S SOME KIND OF SPIN, BUT DEFINITELY NOT ANY I'M FAMILIAR WITH! IF ANYTHING, I SHOULD BE ASKING YOU!
I DON'T KNOW, JOHNNY! I SWEAR!
IT'S A STAND. YOU'VE BEEN AFFECTED...
WE MUST'VE CROSSED INTO ITS TERRITORY.
WE JUST DIDN'T KNOW IT!

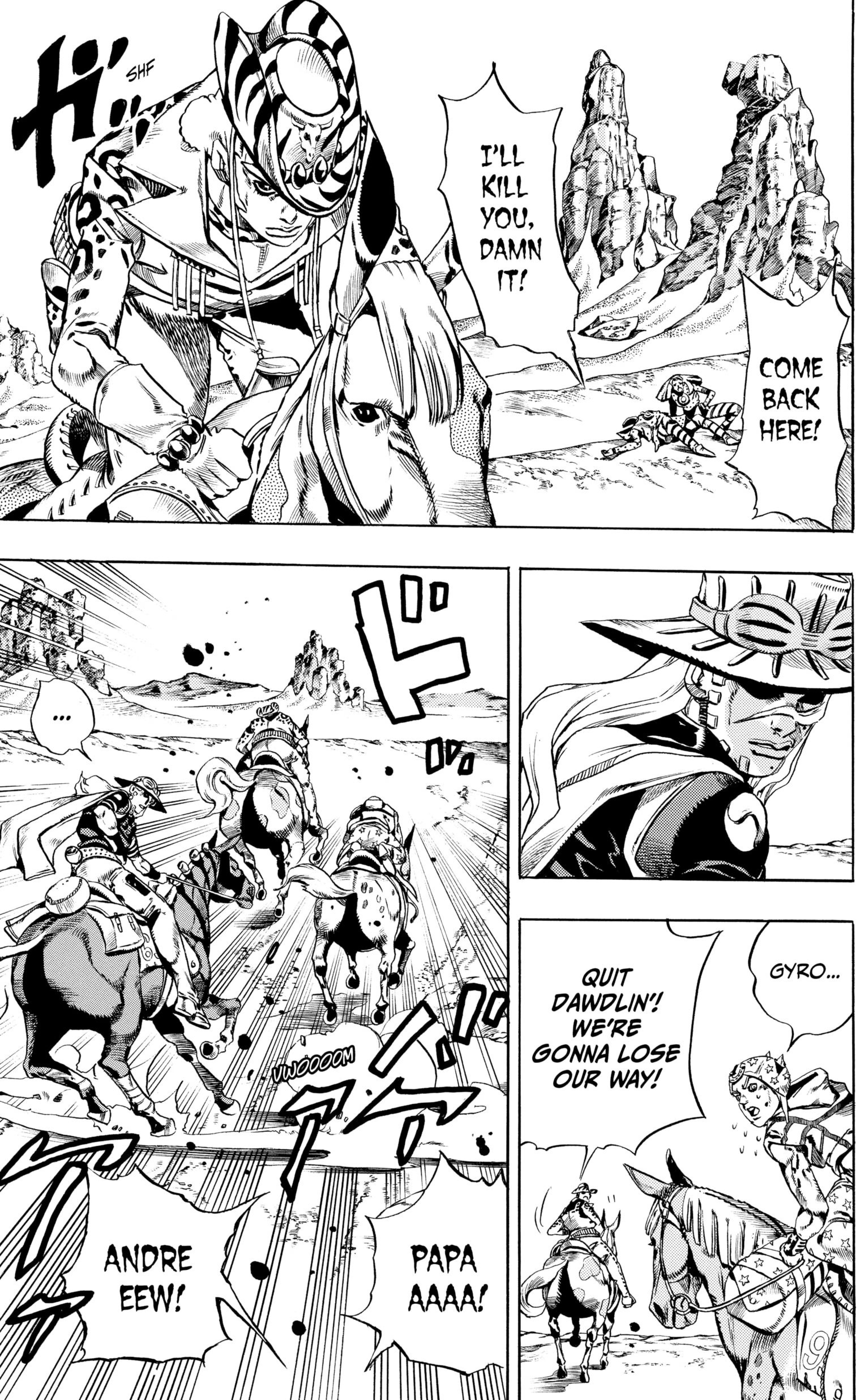

CALL BACK YOUR HORSES!
IF WE'RE IN THE DEVIL'S PALM, WE NEED TO RIDE OUT OF HERE AS FAST AS WE CAN!
WSH
I...I HAVE A STAND...?
ME...?!
WHY WOULD THE DEVIL'S PALM BE HERE?! DID WE JUST HAPPEN TO STUMBLE ACROSS IT?
OR DID THE *LAND* DRAW US INTO IT...?
I'D PUT MY MONEY ON THE LATTER.
07
07
GET ON YOUR HORSES! HURRY!
THE TERRAIN IS GONNA CHANGE ANY SECOND NOW!
WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE WE GET LOST! ONCE THAT HAPPENS, WE'LL NEVER FIND THE NEXT WATERING HOLE!
WSH

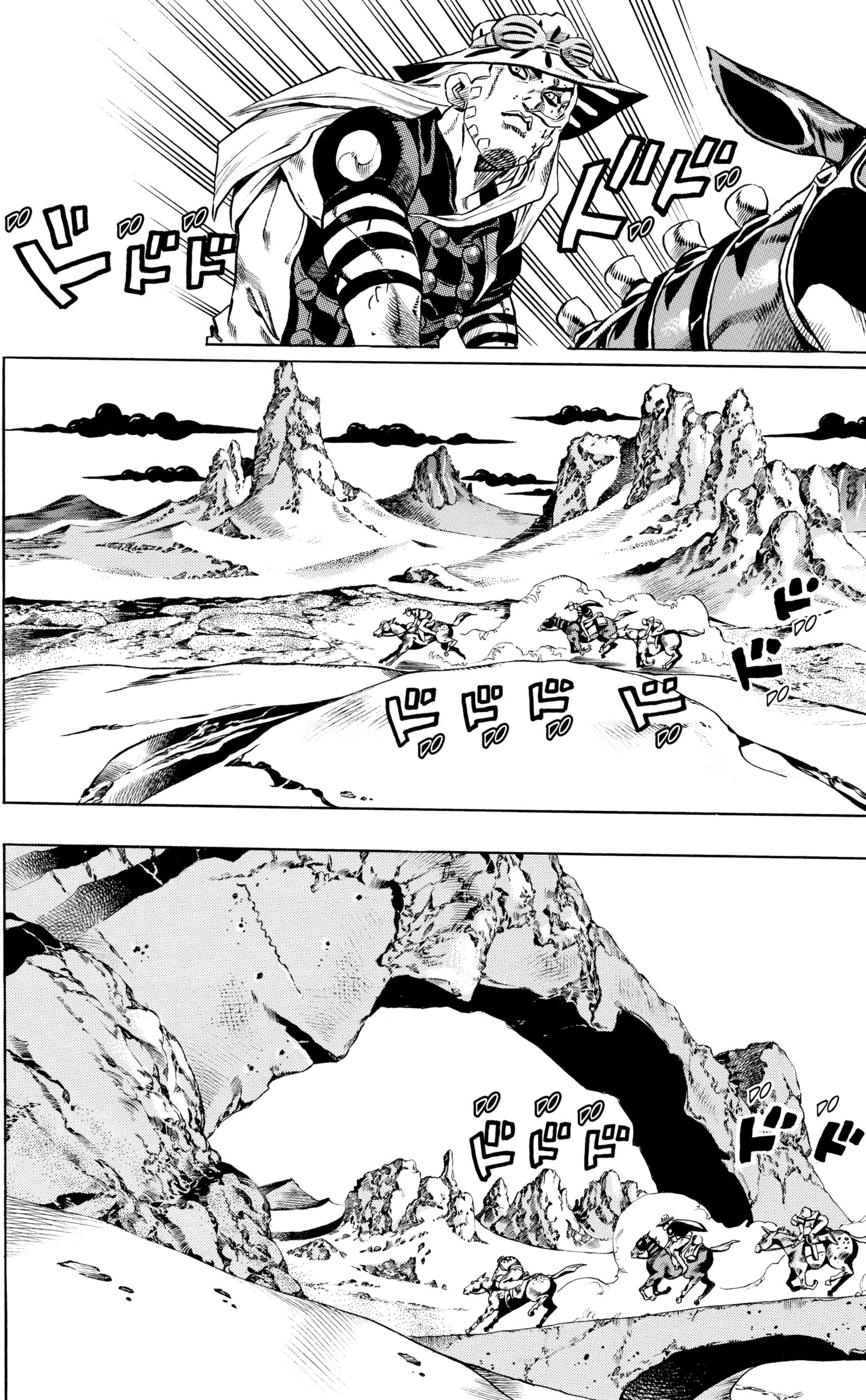

LEAVE HIM.
THE BOOMBOOM FAMILY IS FINISHED. WITH THOSE WOUNDS, HE'LL NEVER MAKE IT OUT OF THE DESERT.
I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF HE'S OUT OF WATER BY TOMORROW AFTERNOON. EITHER WAY, THE RESCUE TEAMS WILL NEVER FIND HIM.

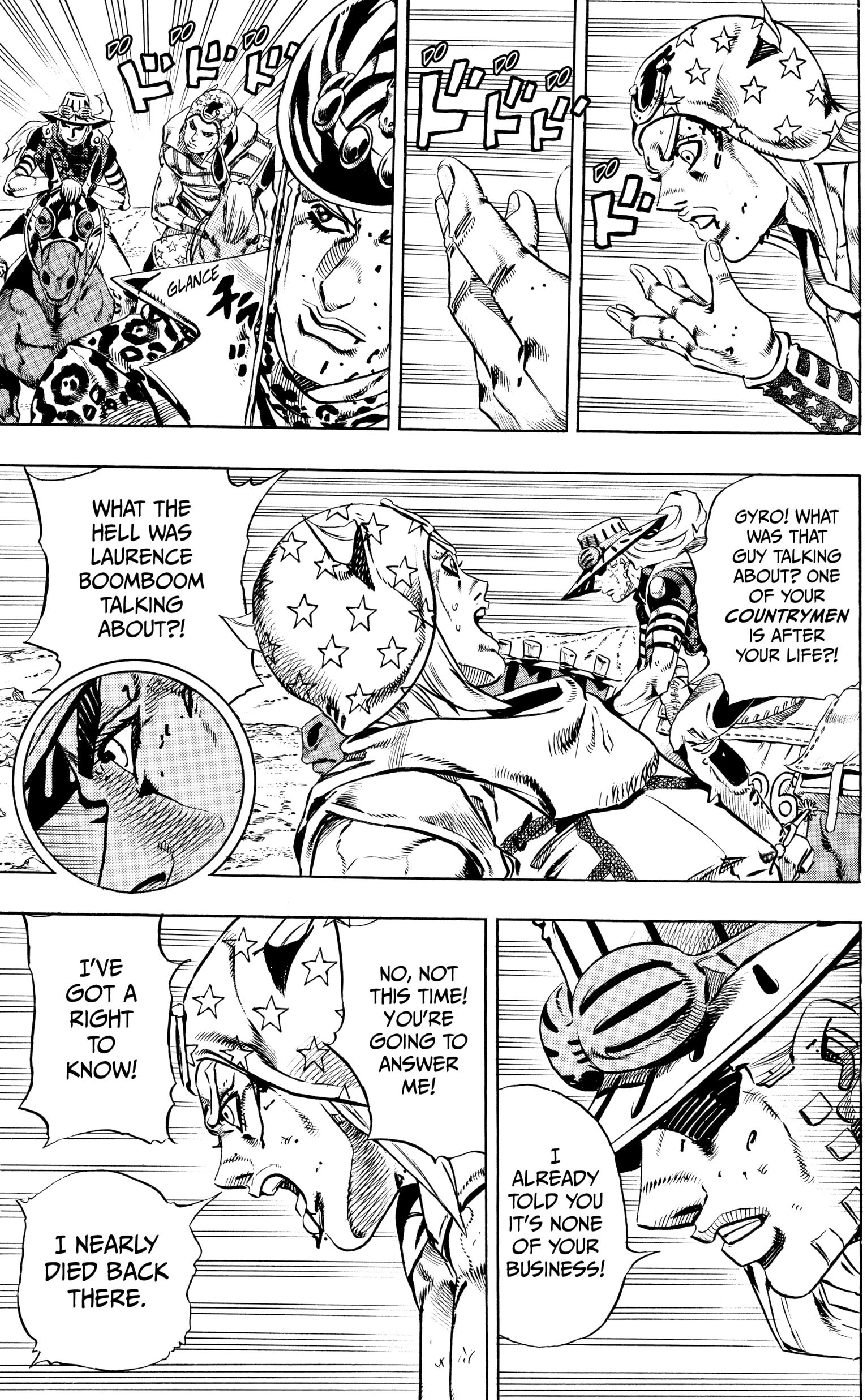

WAIT, YOU MURDERERS!
I'M GONNA GET MY REVENGE ON YOU! YOU CAN'T DO THIS TO ME!

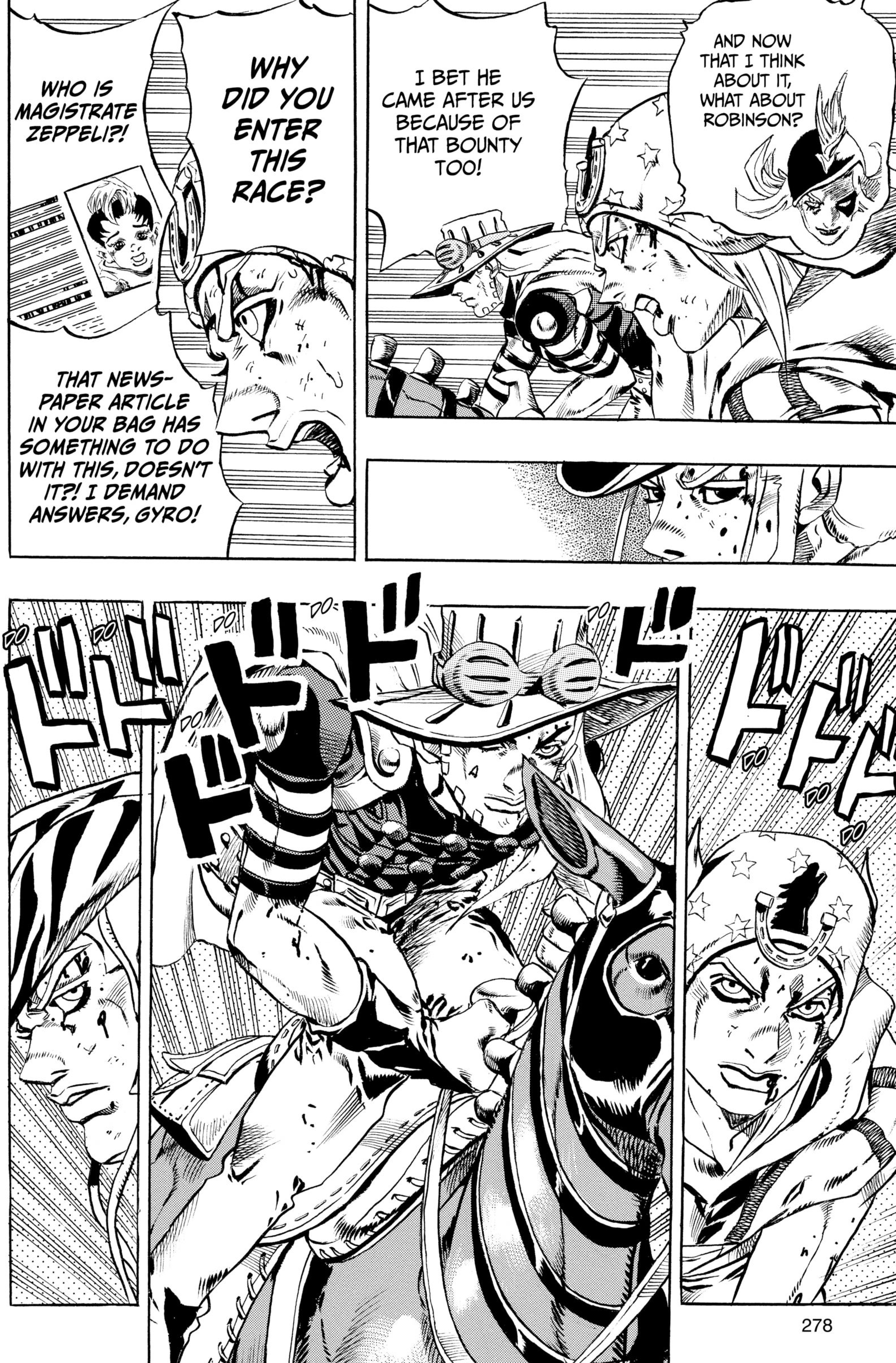

GO
GO
GO
GO
GYRO ZEPPELI!
DO YOU THINK WE'RE THE ONLY ONES OUT FOR YOUR BLOOD?!
'CAUSE IF YOU DO, YOU'RE WRONG!
YOU'LL NEVER REACH THE FINISH LINE, YOU HEAR ME?!
AND IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME, JUST GO ASK YOUR *FELLOW* COUNTRYMAN!

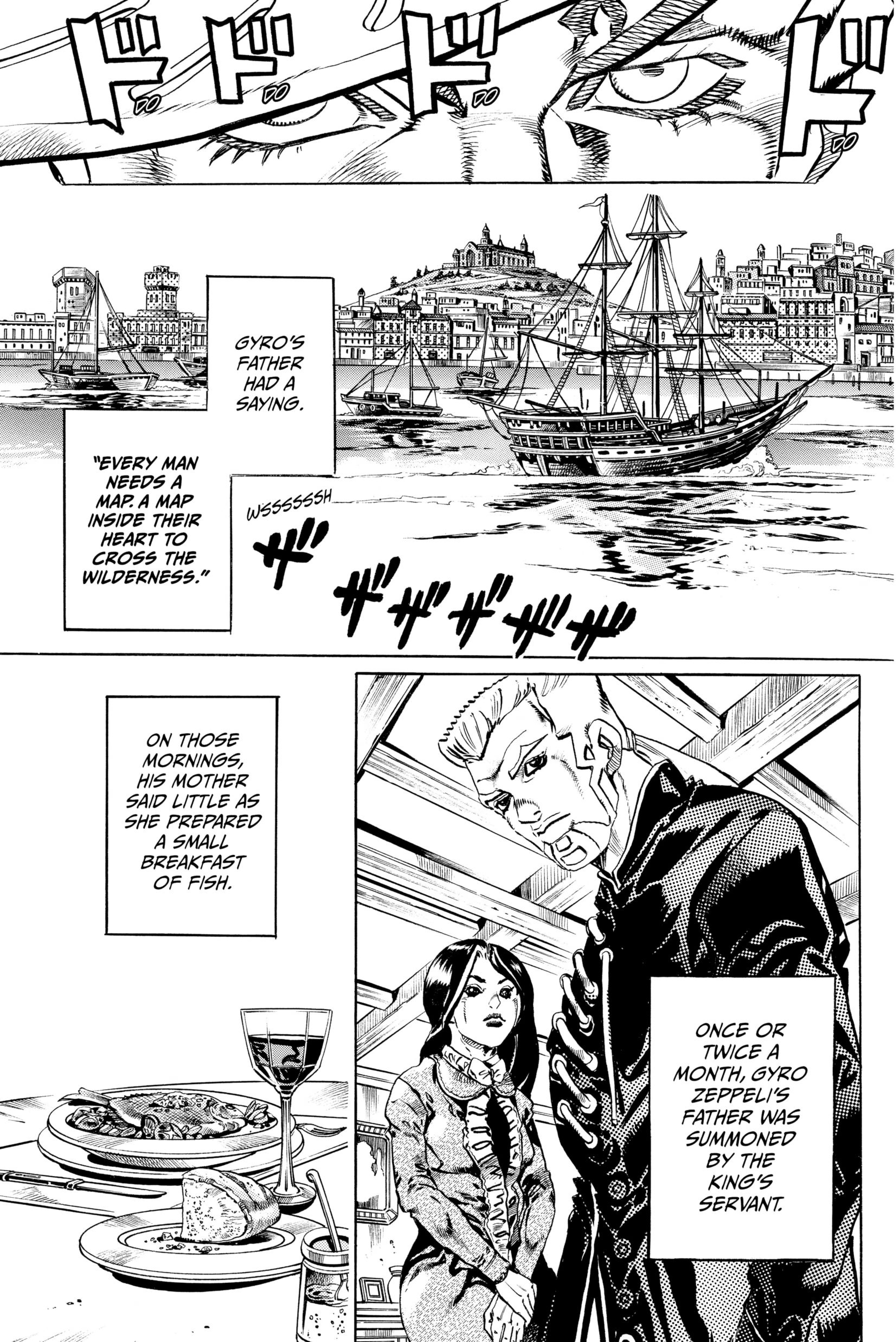

WE DIDN'T COME AFTER YOU JUST BECAUSE YOU WERE IN FIRST PLACE!
HEEE! BA HA HA HA HA HA!
THAT MAN SAID HE'D PAY US $200,000 TO KILL YOU!
THERE'S A BOUNTY ON YOUR HEAD!!
HUH?
WHO HIRED YOU?!
WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING? HURRY UP!
THE GROUND'S MOVING! OUR TRAIL LEADING INTO THIS PLACE IS ALREADY STARTING TO DISAPPEAR!

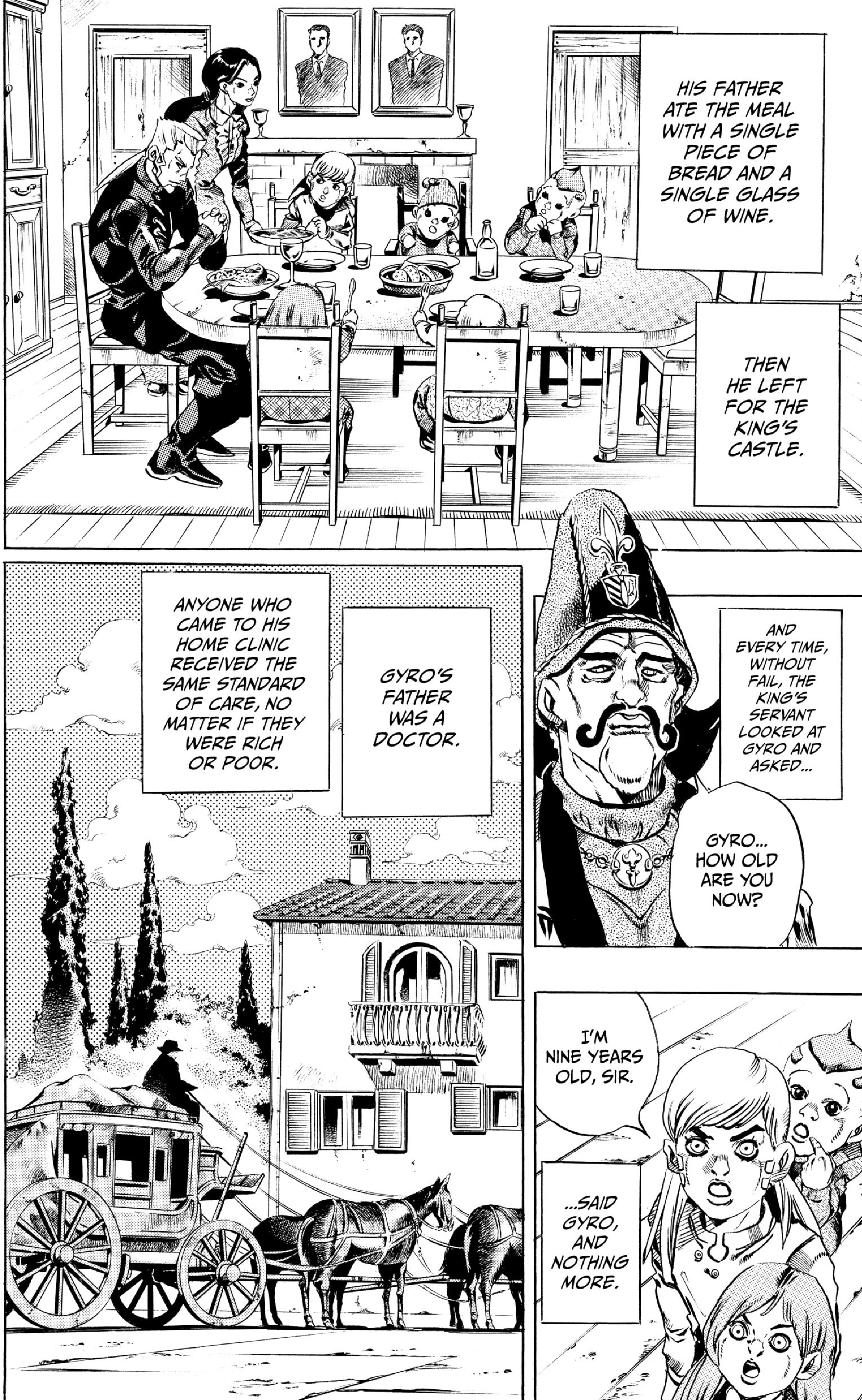

ガッ
SHF
I'LL KILL YOU, DAMN IT!
COME BACK HERE!
GYRO...
QUIT DAWDLIN'! WE'RE GONNA LOSE OUR WAY!
ド
...
VWOOOOM
PAPA AAAA!
ANDRE EEW!

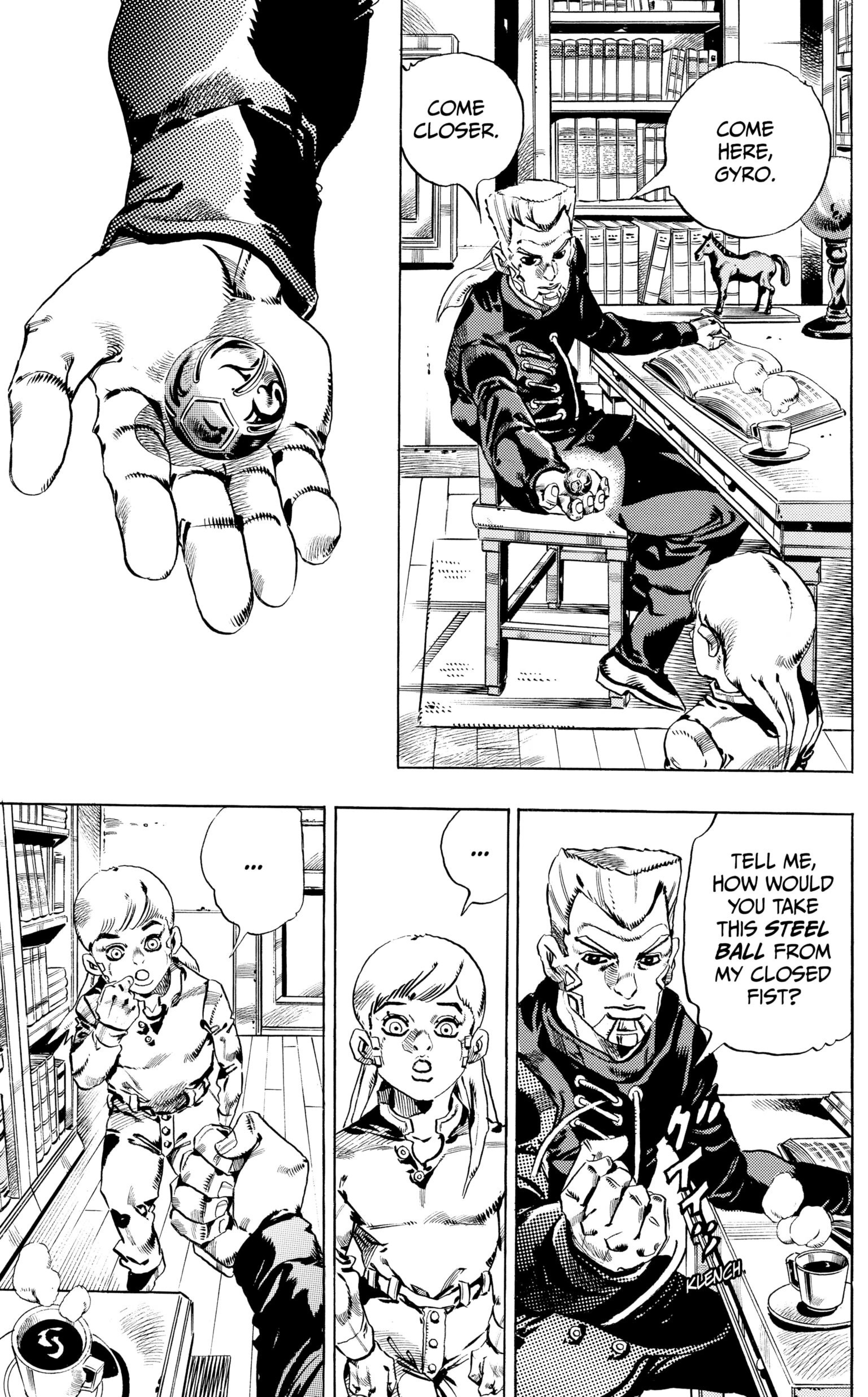

ドドドド
DO DO DO
ドドドド
DO DO DO DO
ドドドドドド
DO DO DO DO DO DO
ドドドドドド
DO DO DO DO DO

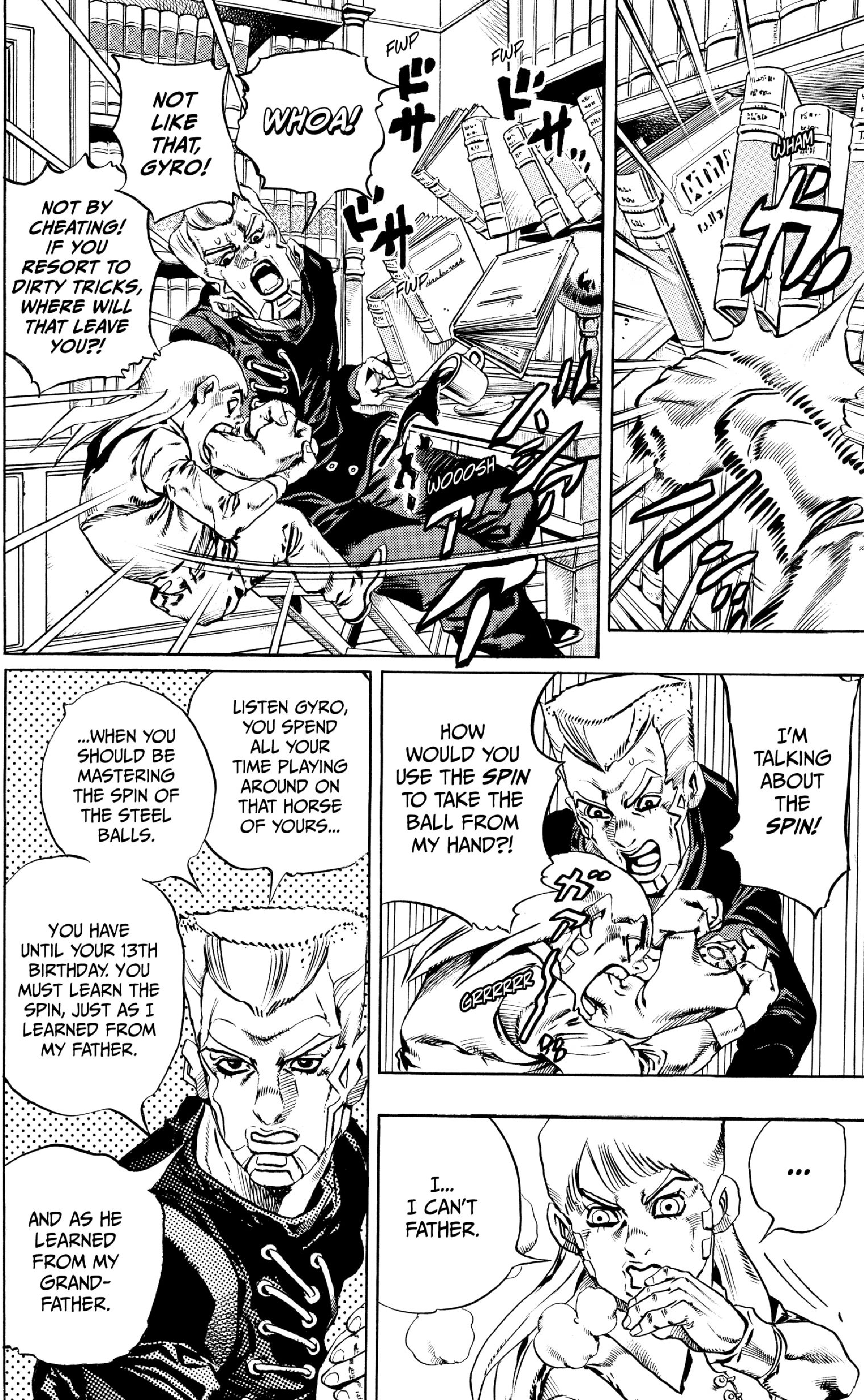

DO
ド
DO DO DO
ドドド
DO DO DO
ドドド
GLANCE
チラ
GYRO! WHAT WAS THAT GUY TALKING ABOUT? ONE OF YOUR *COUNTRYMEN* IS AFTER YOUR LIFE?!
36
WHAT THE HELL WAS LAURENCE BOOMBOOM TALKING ABOUT?!
I ALREADY TOLD YOU IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!
NO, NOT THIS TIME! YOU'RE GOING TO ANSWER ME!
I'VE GOT A RIGHT TO KNOW!
I NEARLY DIED BACK THERE.

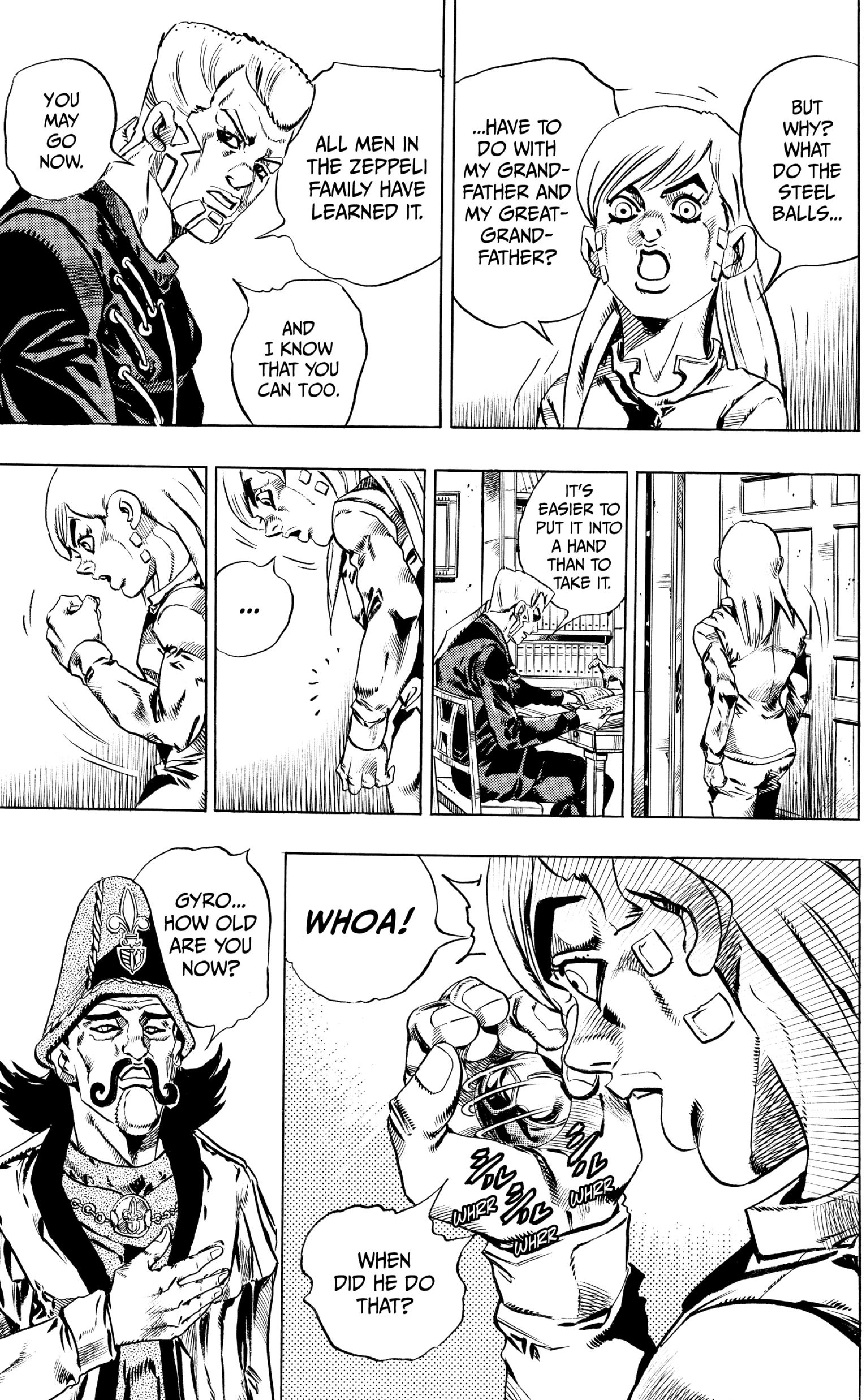

AND NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, WHAT ABOUT ROBINSON?
I BET HE CAME AFTER US BECAUSE OF THAT BOUNTY TOO!
WHY DID YOU ENTER THIS RACE?
WHO IS MAGISTRATE ZEPPELI?!
THAT NEWSPAPER ARTICLE IN YOUR BAG HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THIS, DOESN'T IT?! I DEMAND ANSWERS, GYRO!
ドドドド
DO DO DO DO
ドドドド
DO DO DO DO
ドドド
DO DO DO

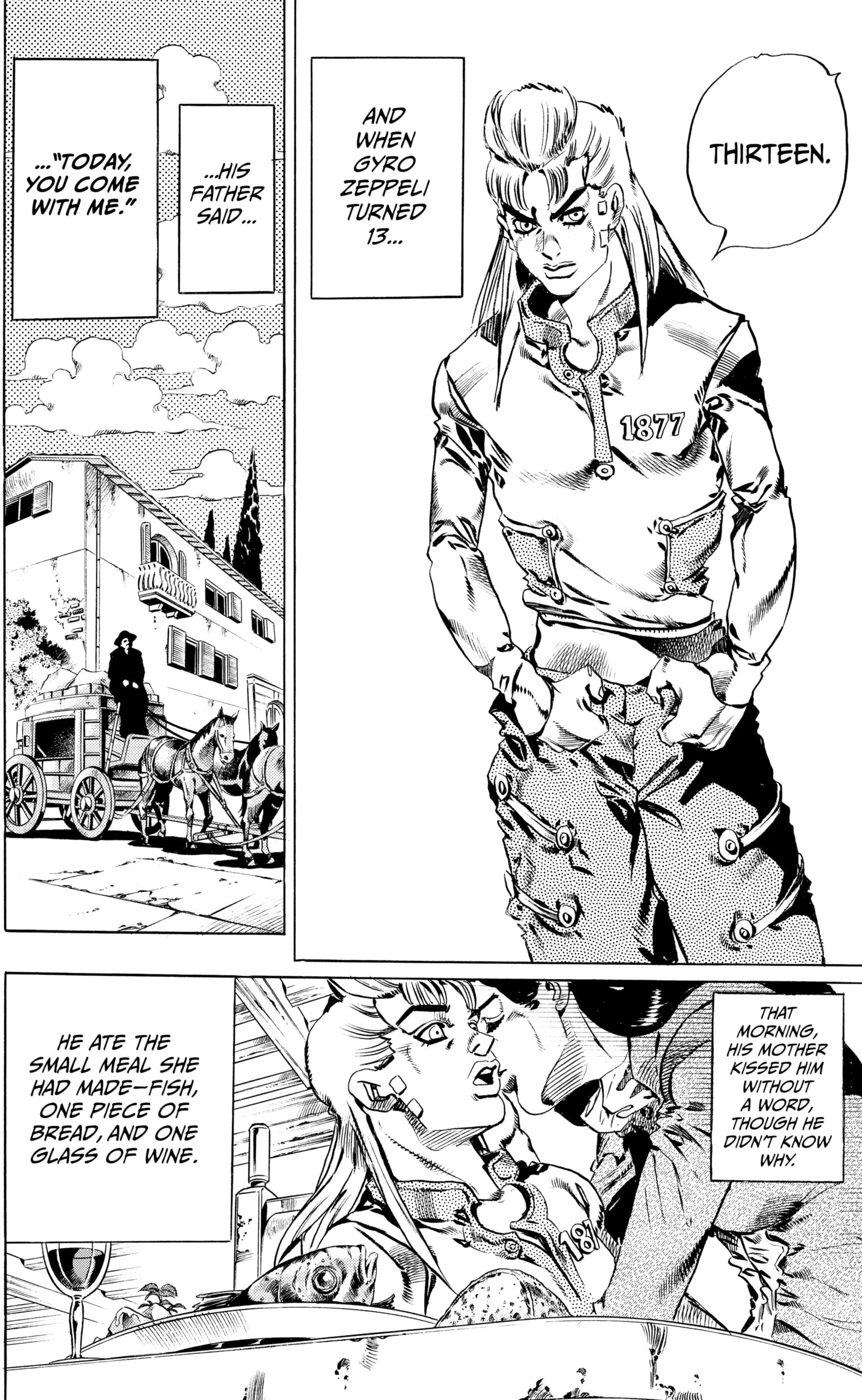

ドドドド
DO DO DO DO
GYRO'S FATHER HAD A SAYING.
"EVERY MAN NEEDS A MAP. A MAP INSIDE THEIR HEART TO CROSS THE WILDERNESS."
WSSSSSSH
ザザザザザザ
ONCE OR TWICE A MONTH, GYRO ZEPPELI'S FATHER WAS SUMMONED BY THE KING'S SERVANT.
ON THOSE MORNINGS, HIS MOTHER SAID LITTLE AS SHE PREPARED A SMALL BREAKFAST OF FISH.

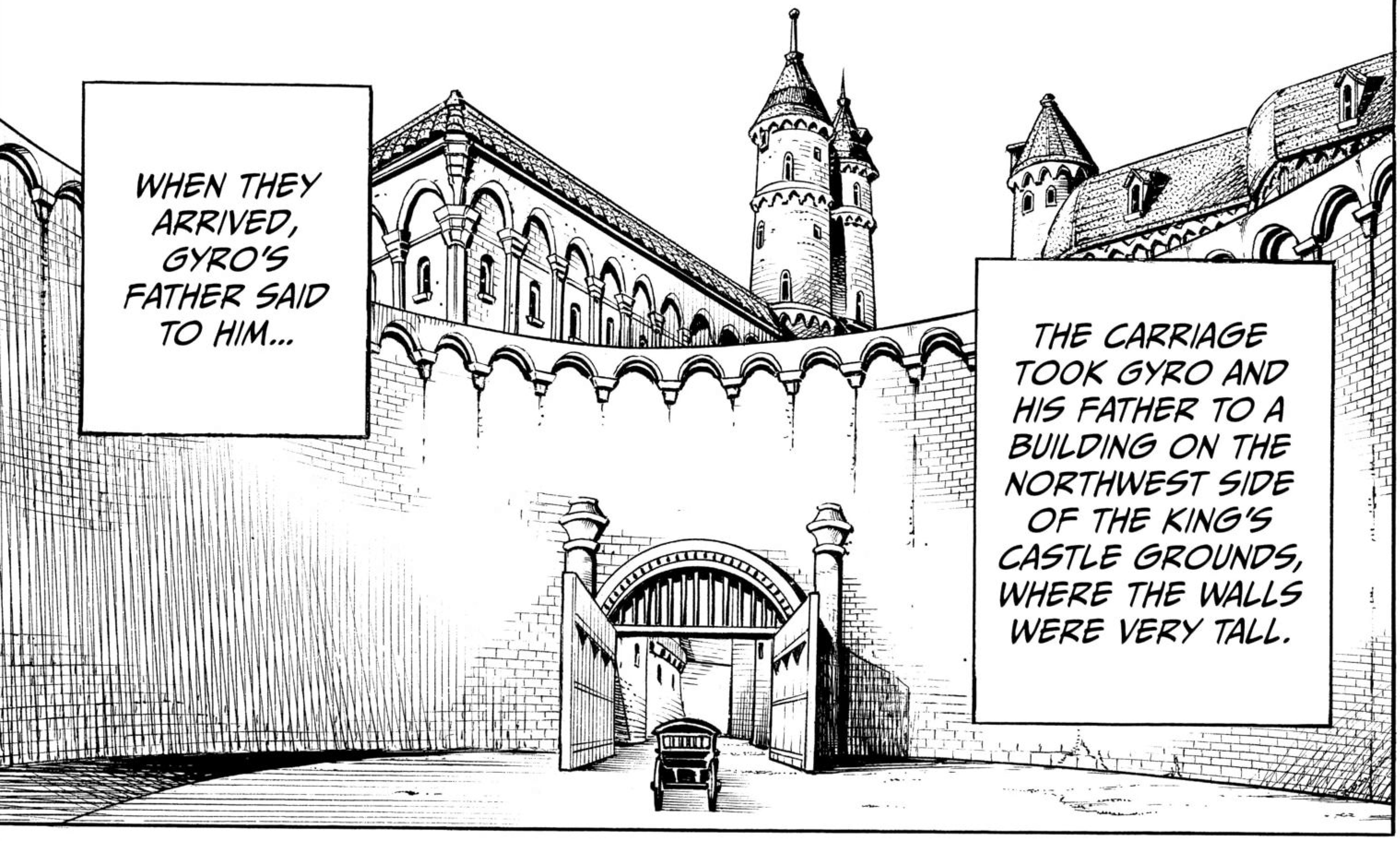

HIS FATHER ATE THE MEAL WITH A SINGLE PIECE OF BREAD AND A SINGLE GLASS OF WINE.
THEN HE LEFT FOR THE KING'S CASTLE.
AND EVERY TIME, WITHOUT FAIL, THE KING'S SERVANT LOOKED AT GYRO AND ASKED...
GYRO... HOW OLD ARE YOU NOW?
I'M NINE YEARS OLD, SIR.
...SAID GYRO, AND NOTHING MORE.
GYRO'S FATHER WAS A DOCTOR.
ANYONE WHO CAME TO HIS HOME CLINIC RECEIVED THE SAME STANDARD OF CARE, NO MATTER IF THEY WERE RICH OR POOR.

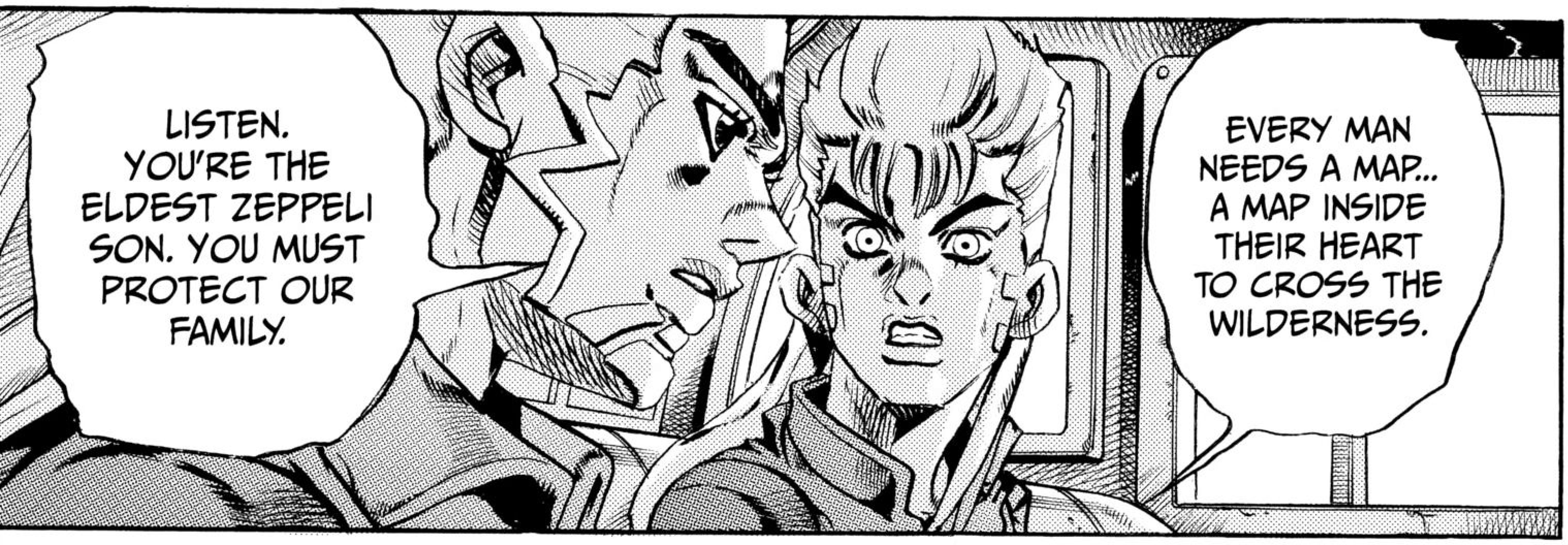

COME HERE, GYRO.
COME CLOSER.
TELL ME, HOW WOULD YOU TAKE THIS ***STEEL BALL*** FROM MY CLOSED FIST?
KLENCH.
...
...

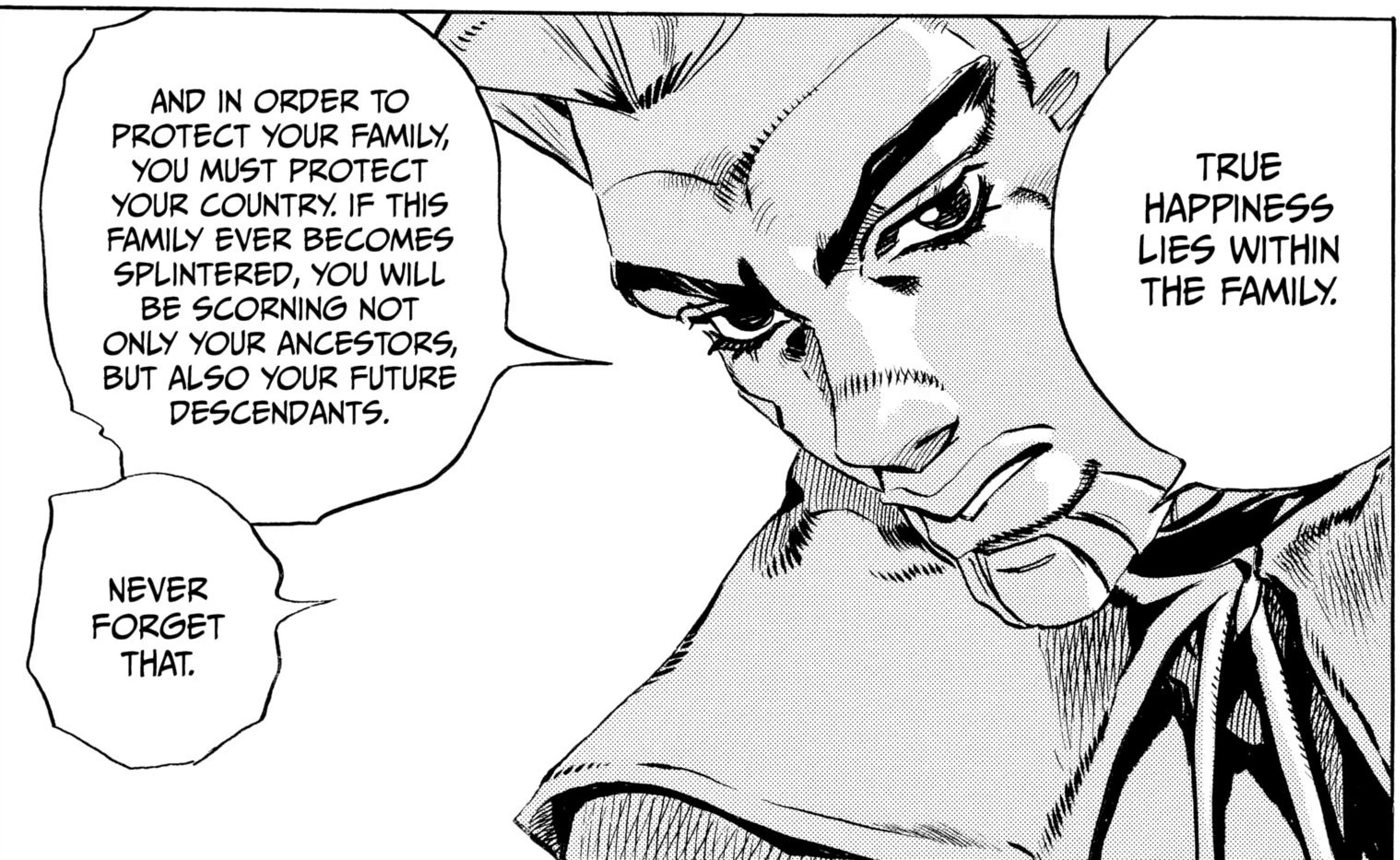

WHAM
ガッ
FWP
ドサッ
FWP
ドサ
WHOA!
NOT LIKE THAT, GYRO!
NOT BY CHEATING! IF YOU RESORT TO DIRTY TRICKS, WHERE WILL THAT LEAVE YOU?!
ドサ
FWP
WOOOSH
I'M TALKING ABOUT THE SPIN!
HOW WOULD YOU USE THE SPIN TO TAKE THE BALL FROM MY HAND?!
ガッ
GRRRRRR
LISTEN GYRO, YOU SPEND ALL YOUR TIME PLAYING AROUND ON THAT HORSE OF YOURS...
...WHEN YOU SHOULD BE MASTERING THE SPIN OF THE STEEL BALLS.
YOU HAVE UNTIL YOUR 13TH BIRTHDAY. YOU MUST LEARN THE SPIN, JUST AS I LEARNED FROM MY FATHER.
AND AS HE LEARNED FROM MY GRAND-FATHER.
...
I... I CAN'T FATHER.

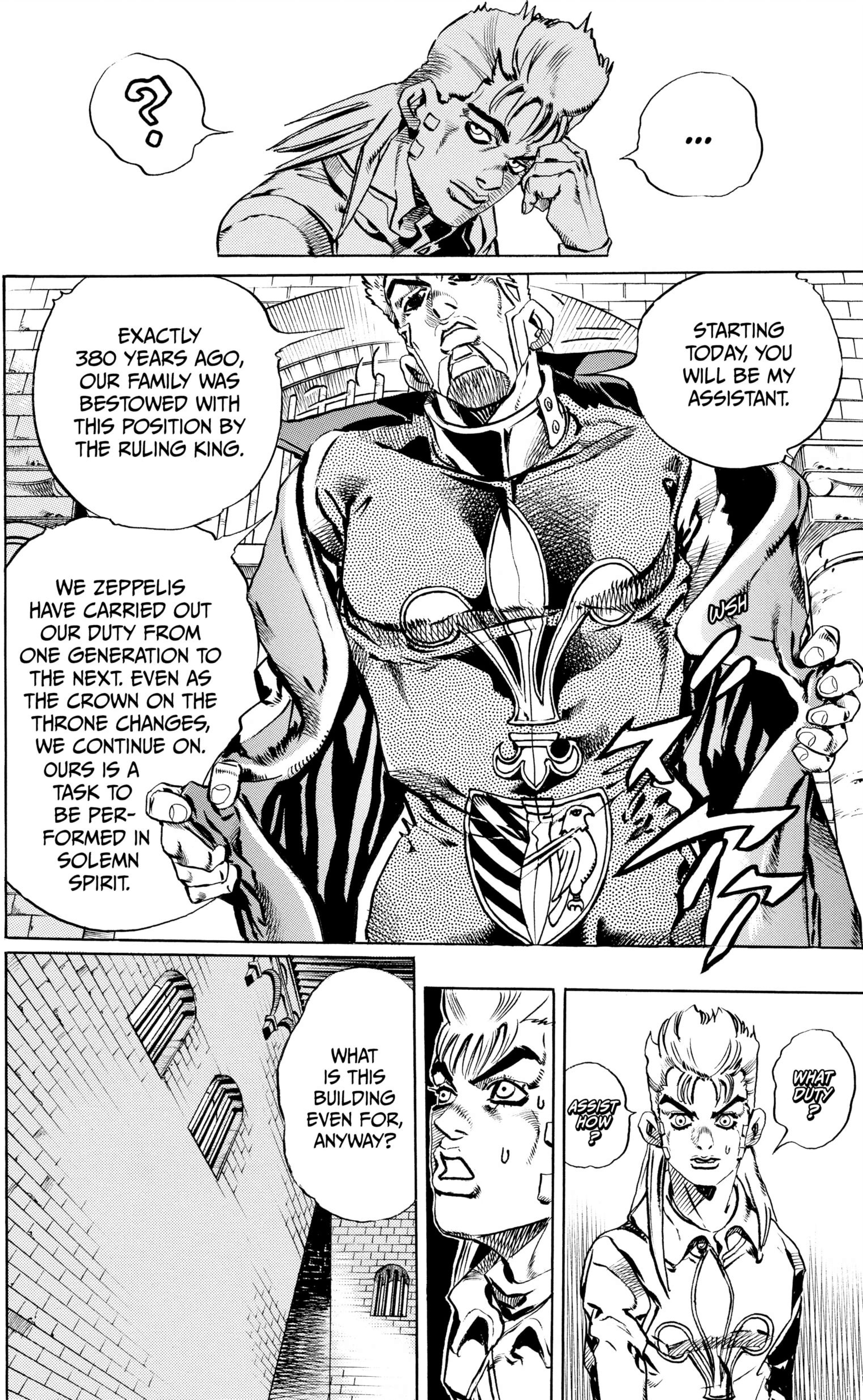

BUT WHY? WHAT DO THE STEEL BALLS...
...HAVE TO DO WITH MY GRAND-FATHER AND MY GREAT-GRAND-FATHER?
ALL MEN IN THE ZEPPELI FAMILY HAVE LEARNED IT.
AND I KNOW THAT YOU CAN TOO.
YOU MAY GO NOW.
IT'S EASIER TO PUT IT INTO A HAND THAN TO TAKE IT.
...
WHOA!
WHRR
WHRR
WHRR
WHRR
WHEN DID HE DO THAT?
GYRO... HOW OLD ARE YOU NOW?

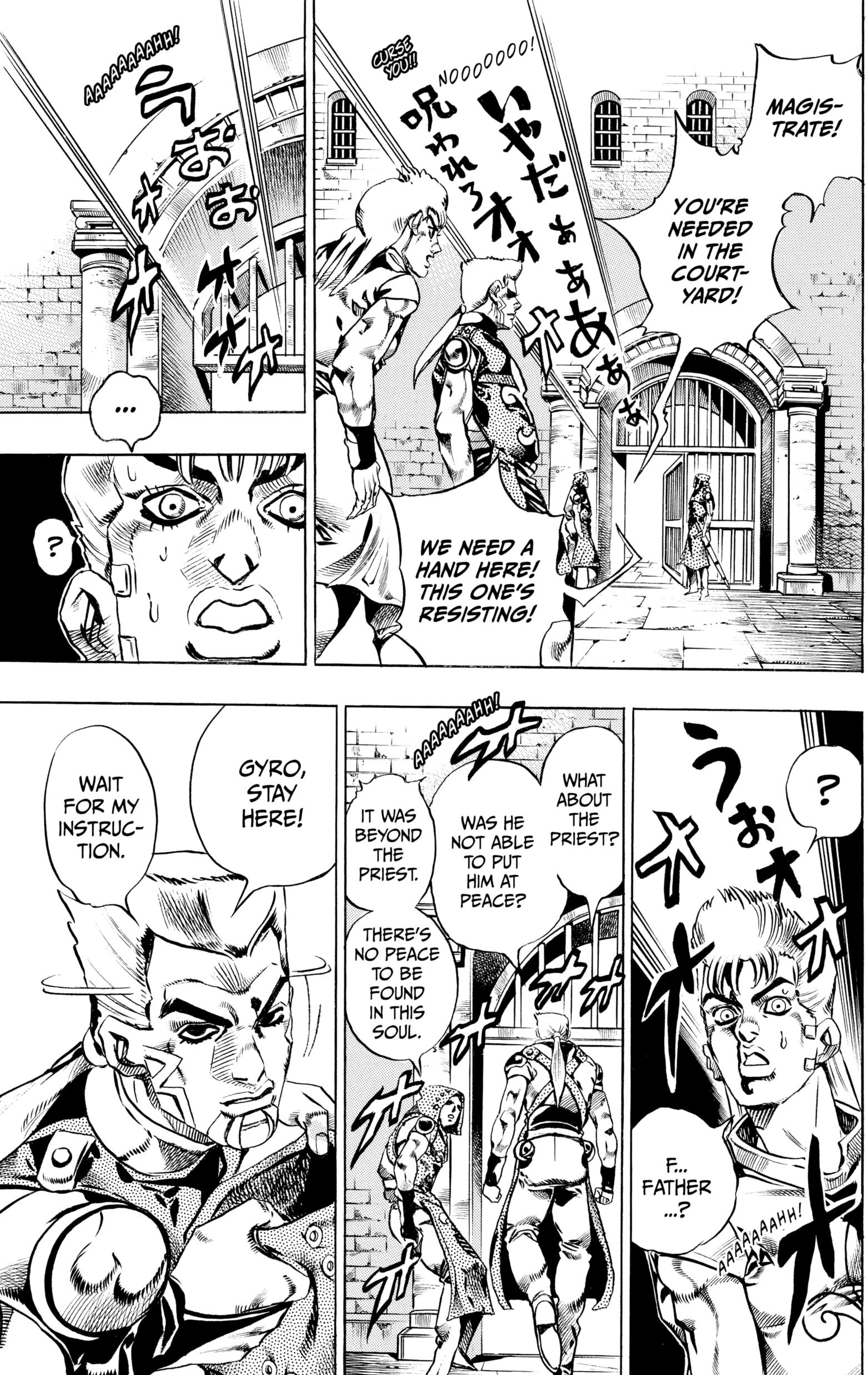

THIRTEEN.
AND WHEN GYRO ZEPPELI TURNED 13...
1877
...HIS FATHER SAID...
..."TODAY, YOU COME WITH ME."
THAT MORNING, HIS MOTHER KISSED HIM WITHOUT A WORD, THOUGH HE DIDN'T KNOW WHY.
HE ATE THE SMALL MEAL SHE HAD MADE—FISH, ONE PIECE OF BREAD, AND ONE GLASS OF WINE.

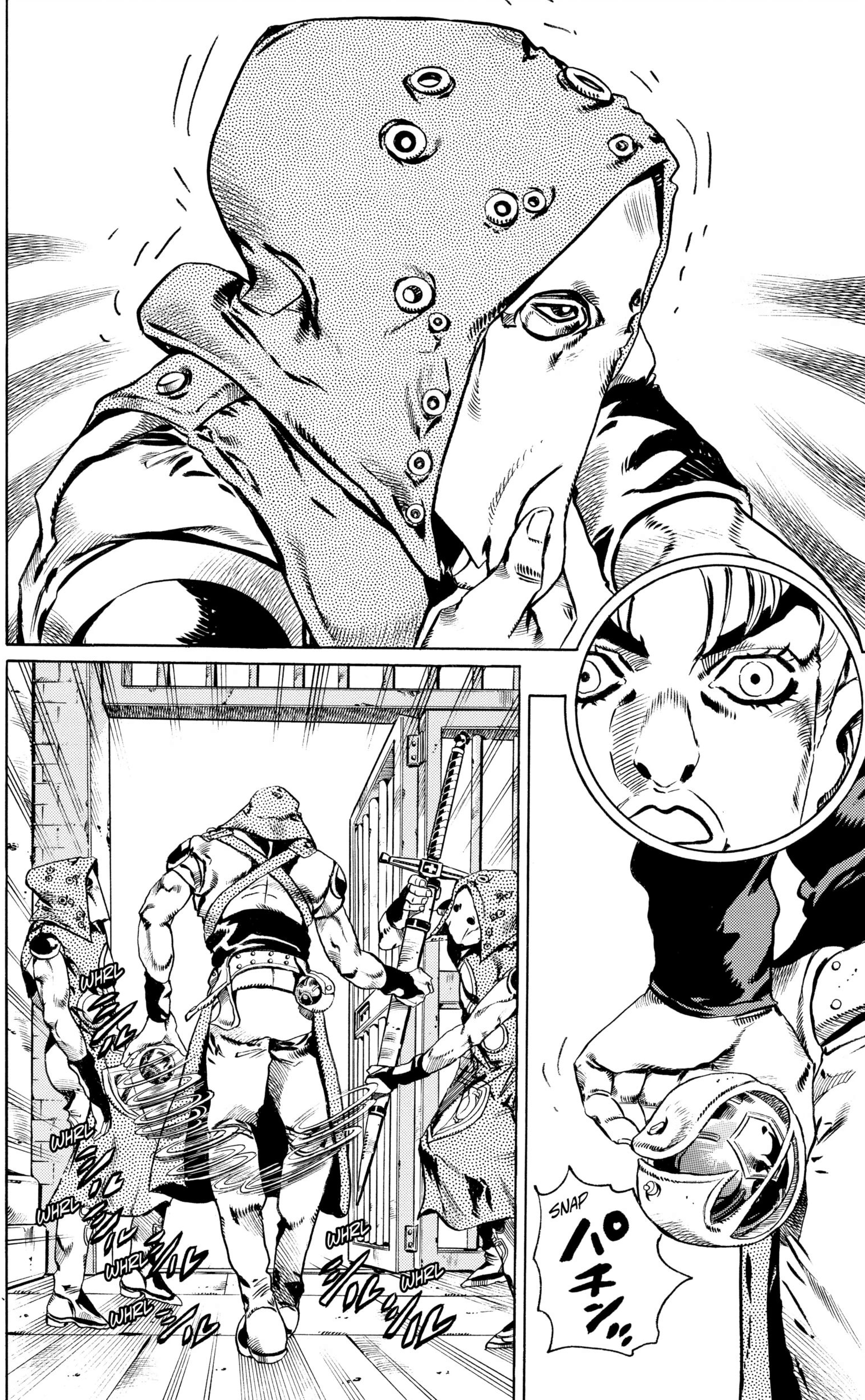

THE CARRIAGE TOOK GYRO AND HIS FATHER TO A BUILDING ON THE NORTHWEST SIDE OF THE KING'S CASTLE GROUNDS, WHERE THE WALLS WERE VERY TALL.
WHEN THEY ARRIVED, GYRO'S FATHER SAID TO HIM...

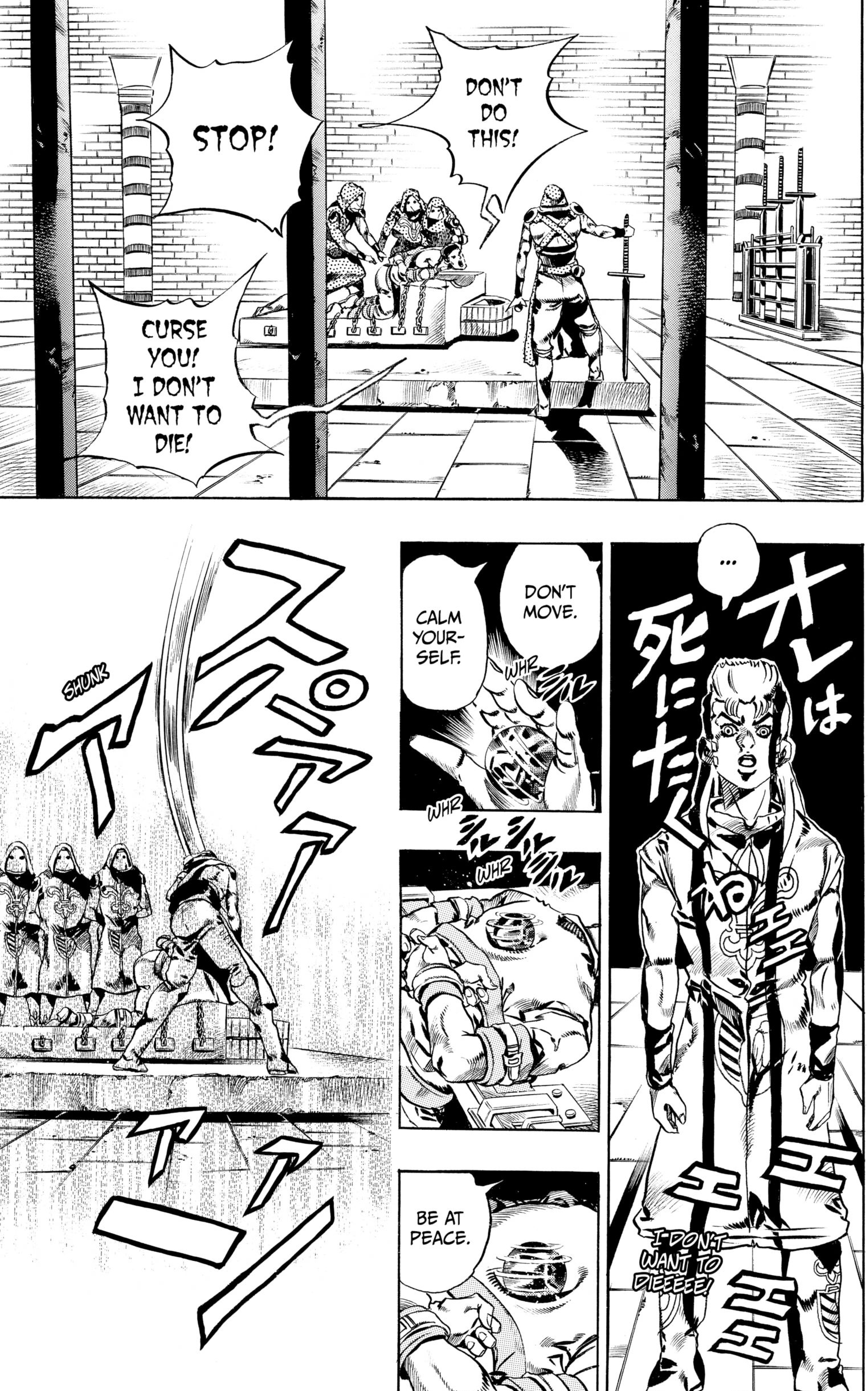

EVERY MAN NEEDS A MAP... A MAP INSIDE THEIR HEART TO CROSS THE WILDERNESS.
LISTEN. YOU'RE THE ELDEST ZEPPELI SON. YOU MUST PROTECT OUR FAMILY.

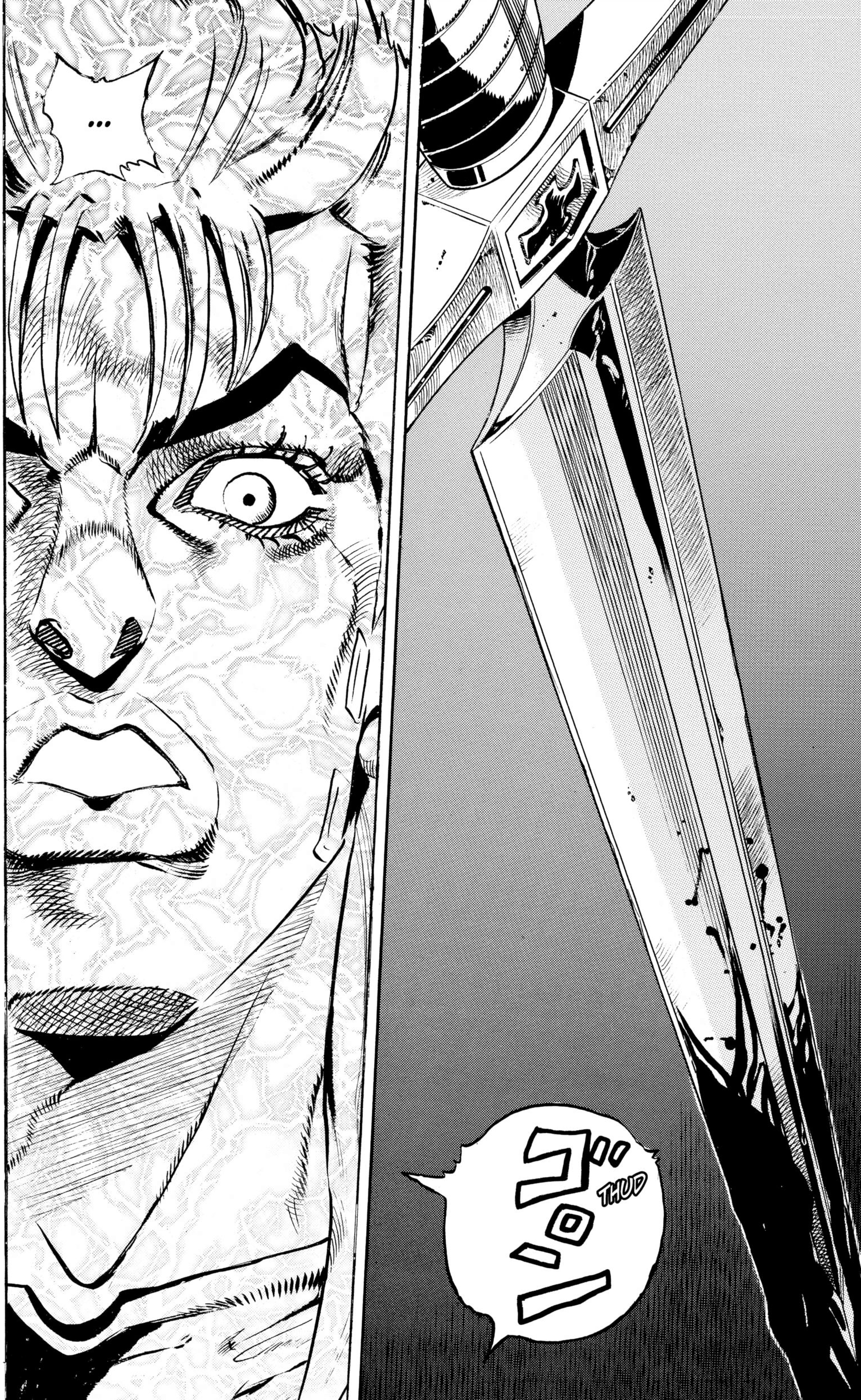

TRUE HAPPINESS LIES WITHIN THE FAMILY.
AND IN ORDER TO PROTECT YOUR FAMILY, YOU MUST PROTECT YOUR COUNTRY. IF THIS FAMILY EVER BECOMES SPLINTERED, YOU WILL BE SCORNING NOT ONLY YOUR ANCESTORS, BUT ALSO YOUR FUTURE DESCENDANTS.
NEVER FORGET THAT.

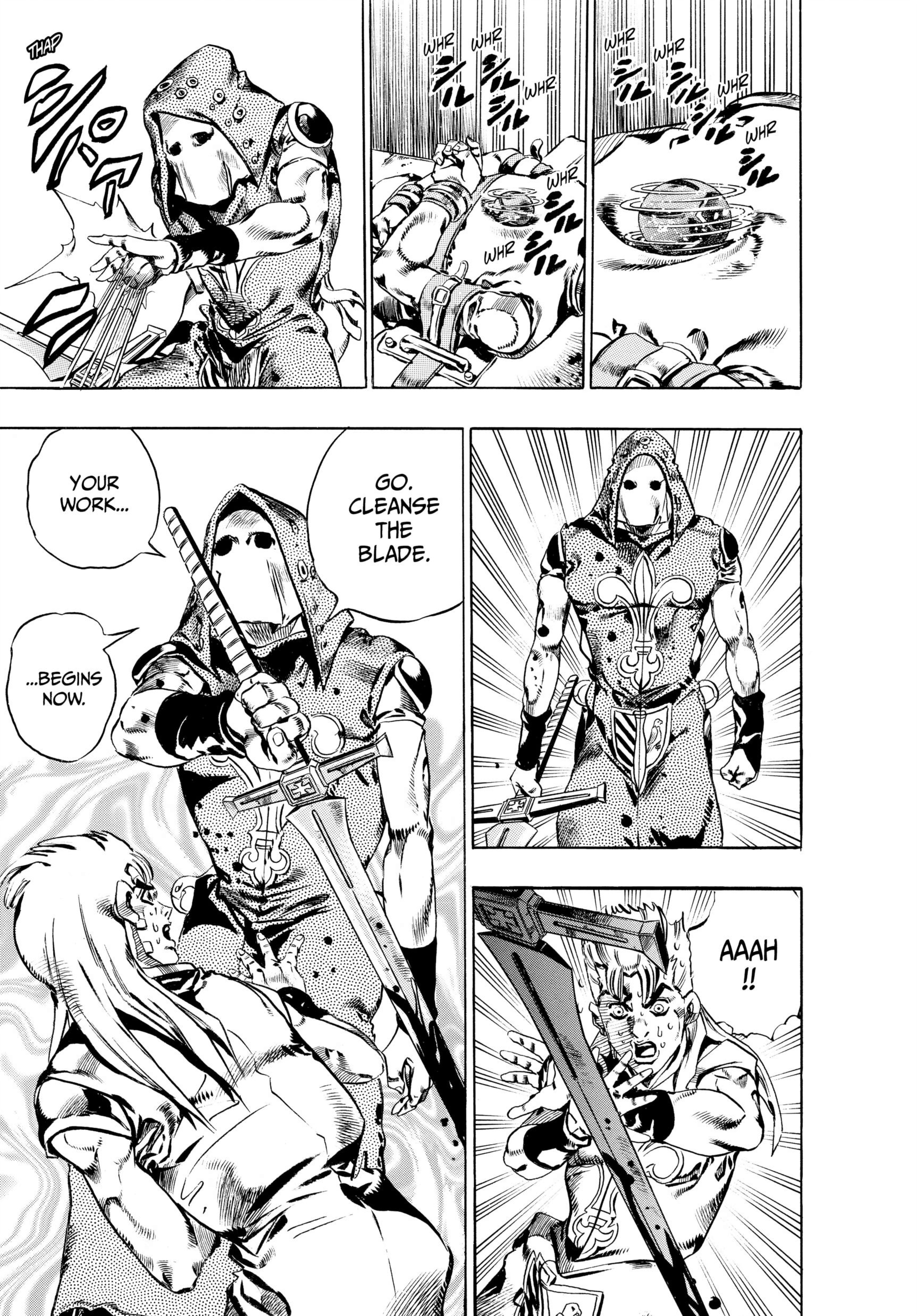

...
?
STARTING TODAY, YOU WILL BE MY ASSISTANT.
EXACTLY 380 YEARS AGO, OUR FAMILY WAS BESTOWED WITH THIS POSITION BY THE RULING KING.
WE ZEPPELIS HAVE CARRIED OUT OUR DUTY FROM ONE GENERATION TO THE NEXT. EVEN AS THE CROWN ON THE THRONE CHANGES, WE CONTINUE ON. OURS IS A TASK TO BE PERFORMED IN SOLEMN SPIRIT.
WSH
WHAT DUTY?
ASSIST HOW?
WHAT IS THIS BUILDING EVEN FOR, ANYWAY?

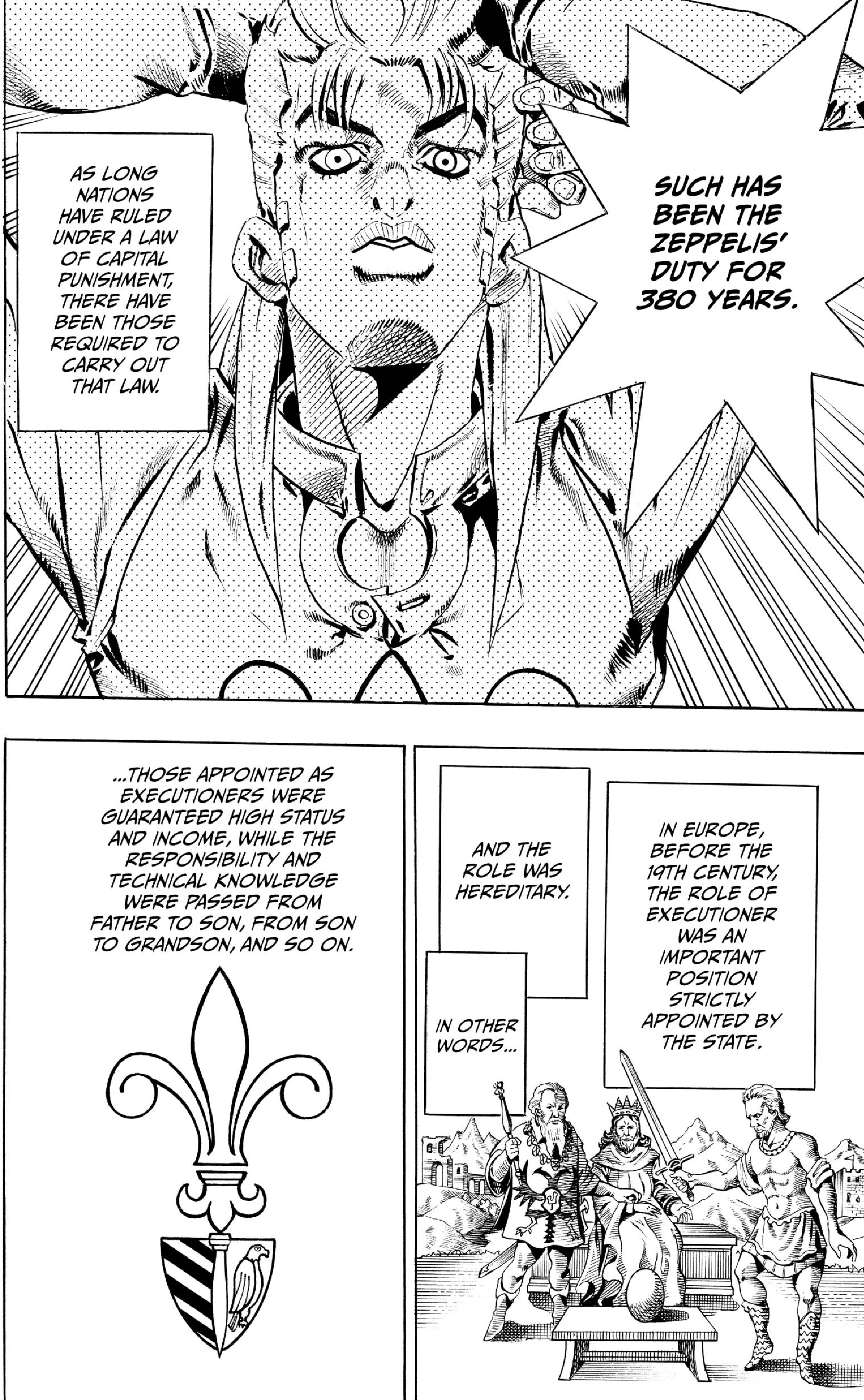

MAGISTRATE!
YOU'RE NEEDED IN THE COURTYARD!
いやだぁああぁぁ
NOOOOOOOO!
呪われろオオオ
CURSE YOU!!
WE NEED A HAND HERE! THIS ONE'S RESISTING!
うおおオオオオ
AAAAAAAAHH!
...
?
?
うおオオオオ
F... FATHER ...?
AAAAAAAAHH!
WHAT ABOUT THE PRIEST?
WAS HE NOT ABLE TO PUT HIM AT PEACE?
IT WAS BEYOND THE PRIEST.
THERE'S NO PEACE TO BE FOUND IN THIS SOUL.
オオオオ
AAAAAAAAHH!
GYRO, STAY HERE!
WAIT FOR MY INSTRUCTION.

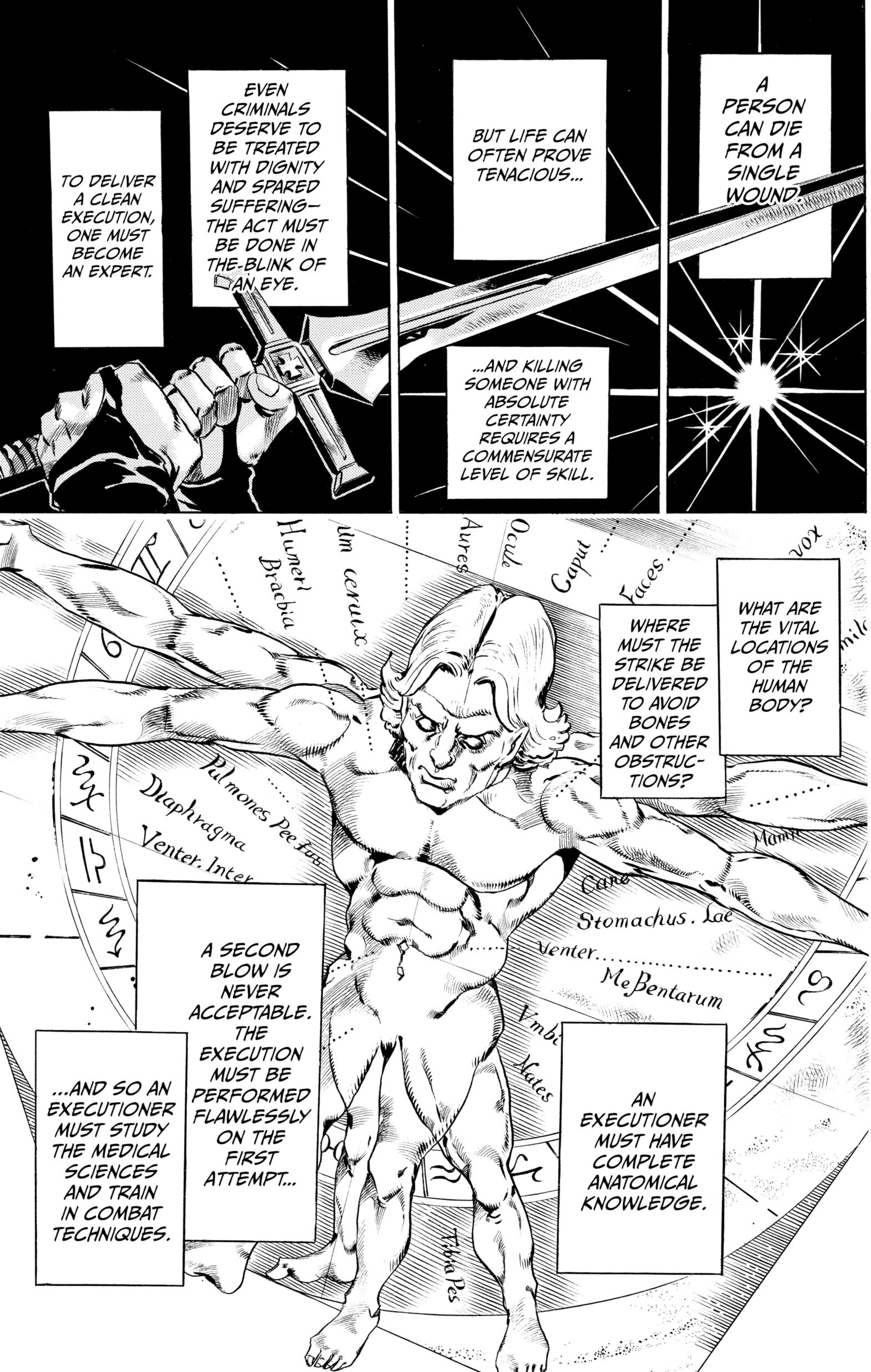

SNAP
パチンッ
WHRL
WHRL
WHRL
WHRL
WHRL
WHRL
WHRL

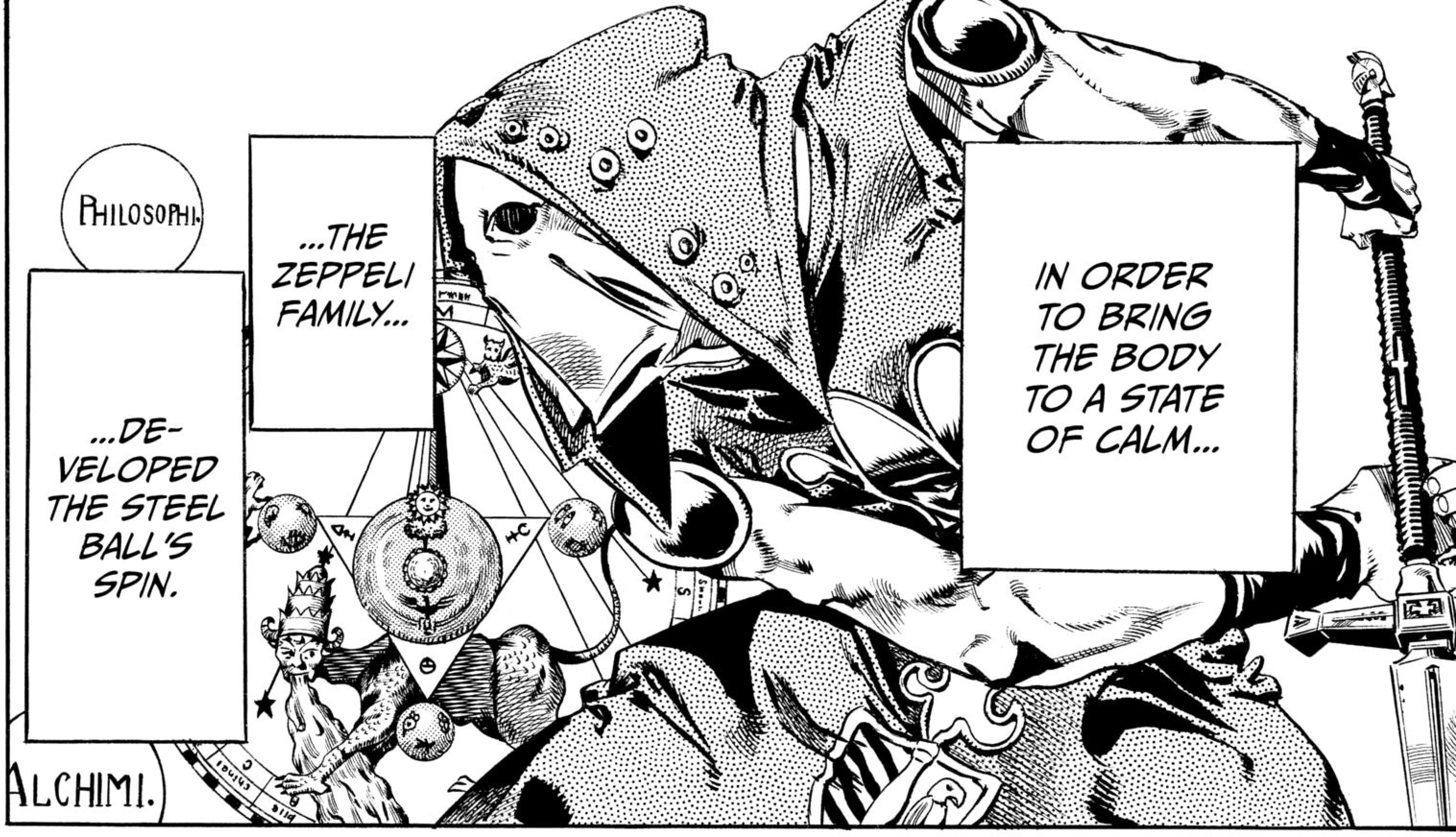

DON'T DO THIS!
STOP!
CURSE YOU! I DON'T WANT TO DIE!
...
オレは死にたくねェェェェ
I DON'T WANT TO DIEEEEE!
DON'T MOVE.
CALM YOURSELF.
WHR シル
WHR シル
WHR シル
BE AT PEACE.
スパァァァーン
SHUNK

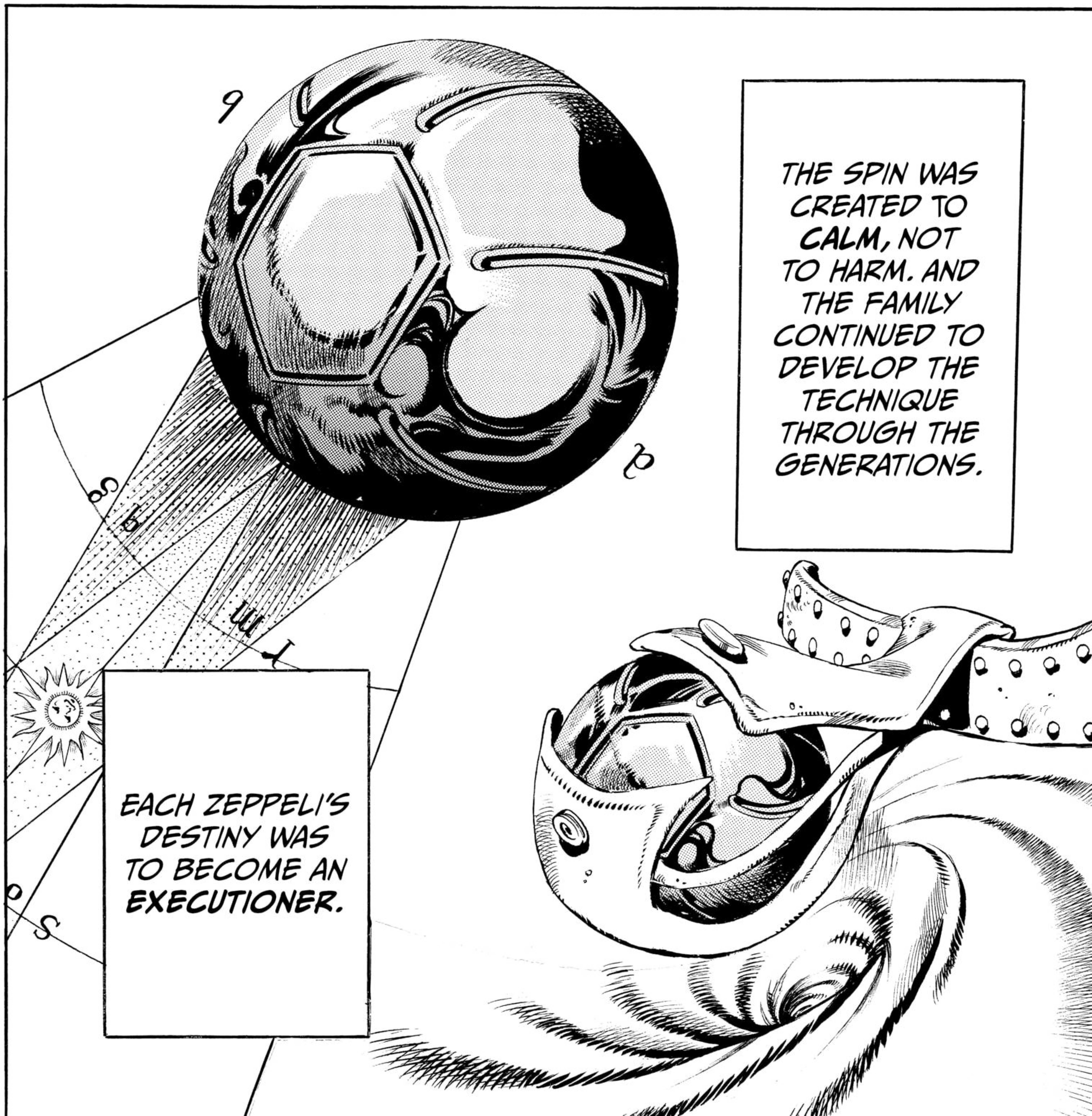

...
ゴロ一ー
THUD

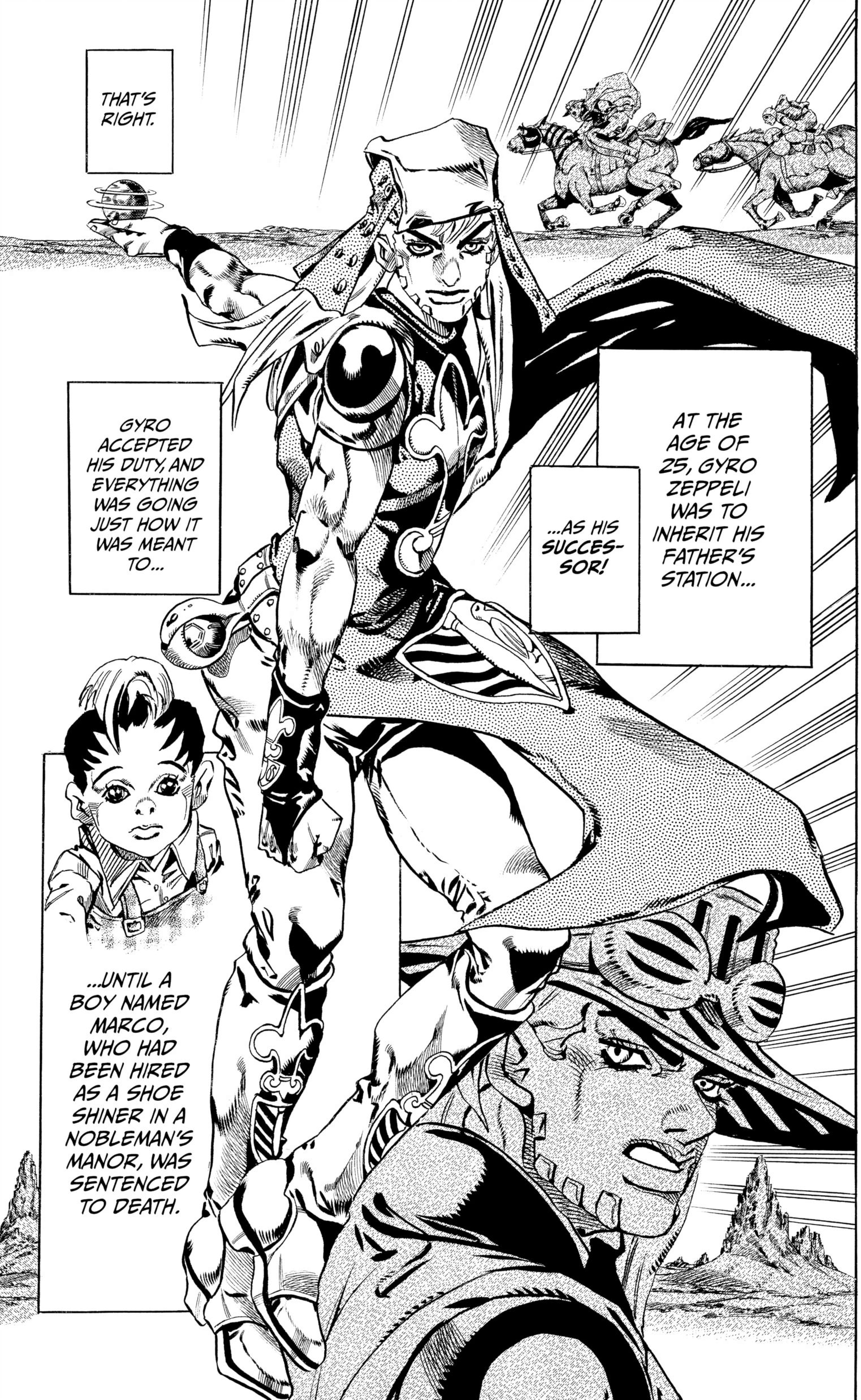

WHR
シル
WHR
シル
WHR
シル
WHR
シル
WHR
シル
WHR
シル
WHR
シル
WHR
シル
THAP
AAAH !!
GO. CLEANSE THE BLADE.
YOUR WORK...
...BEGINS NOW.


SUCH HAS BEEN THE ZEPPELIS' DUTY FOR 380 YEARS.
AS LONG NATIONS HAVE RULED UNDER A LAW OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT, THERE HAVE BEEN THOSE REQUIRED TO CARRY OUT THAT LAW.
IN EUROPE, BEFORE THE 19TH CENTURY, THE ROLE OF EXECUTIONER WAS AN IMPORTANT POSITION STRICTLY APPOINTED BY THE STATE.
AND THE ROLE WAS HEREDITARY.
IN OTHER WORDS...
...THOSE APPOINTED AS EXECUTIONERS WERE GUARANTEED HIGH STATUS AND INCOME, WHILE THE RESPONSIBILITY AND TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE WERE PASSED FROM FATHER TO SON, FROM SON TO GRANDSON, AND SO ON.


A PERSON CAN DIE FROM A SINGLE WOUND.
BUT LIFE CAN OFTEN PROVE TENACIOUS...
...AND KILLING SOMEONE WITH ABSOLUTE CERTAINTY REQUIRES A COMMENSURATE LEVEL OF SKILL.
EVEN CRIMINALS DESERVE TO BE TREATED WITH DIGNITY AND SPARED SUFFERING—THE ACT MUST BE DONE IN THE-BLINK OF AN EYE.
TO DELIVER A CLEAN EXECUTION, ONE MUST BECOME AN EXPERT.
WHAT ARE THE VITAL LOCATIONS OF THE HUMAN BODY?
WHERE MUST THE STRIKE BE DELIVERED TO AVOID BONES AND OTHER OBSTRUCTIONS?
AN EXECUTIONER MUST HAVE COMPLETE ANATOMICAL KNOWLEDGE.
A SECOND BLOW IS NEVER ACCEPTABLE. THE EXECUTION MUST BE PERFORMED FLAWLESSLY ON THE FIRST ATTEMPT...
...AND SO AN EXECUTIONER MUST STUDY THE MEDICAL SCIENCES AND TRAIN IN COMBAT TECHNIQUES.
vox
Faces
Caput
Ocule
Aures
um cerulx
Humeri Brachia
Pulmones Pectus
Diaphragma
Venter. Inter
Mamr
Cane
Stomachus. Lae
Venter
Meßentarum
Vmbi
Nates
Tibia Pes

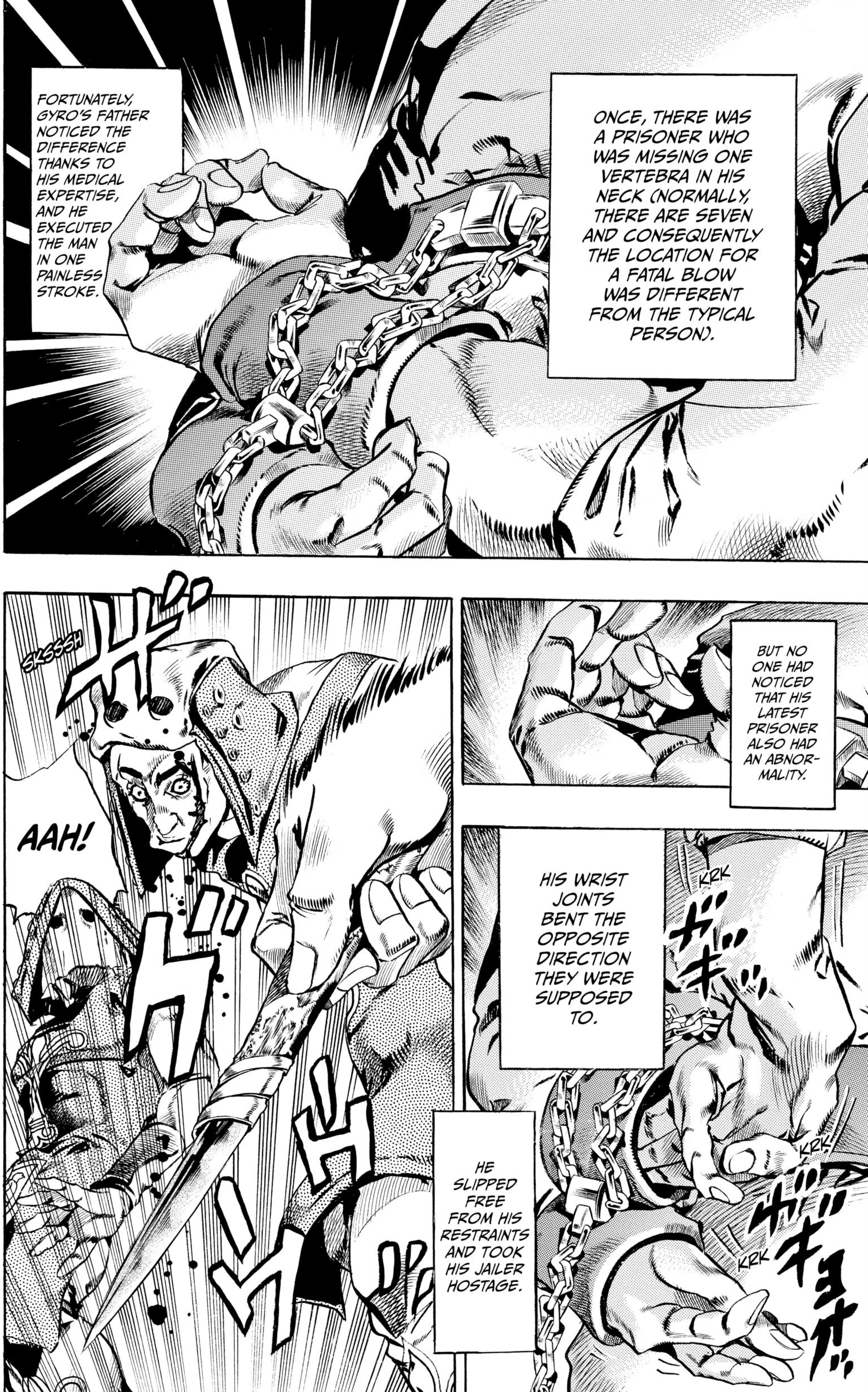

IN ORDER TO BRING THE BODY TO A STATE OF CALM...
...THE ZEPPELI FAMILY...
...DEVELOPED THE STEEL BALL'S SPIN.
PHILOSOPHI.
ALCHIMI.

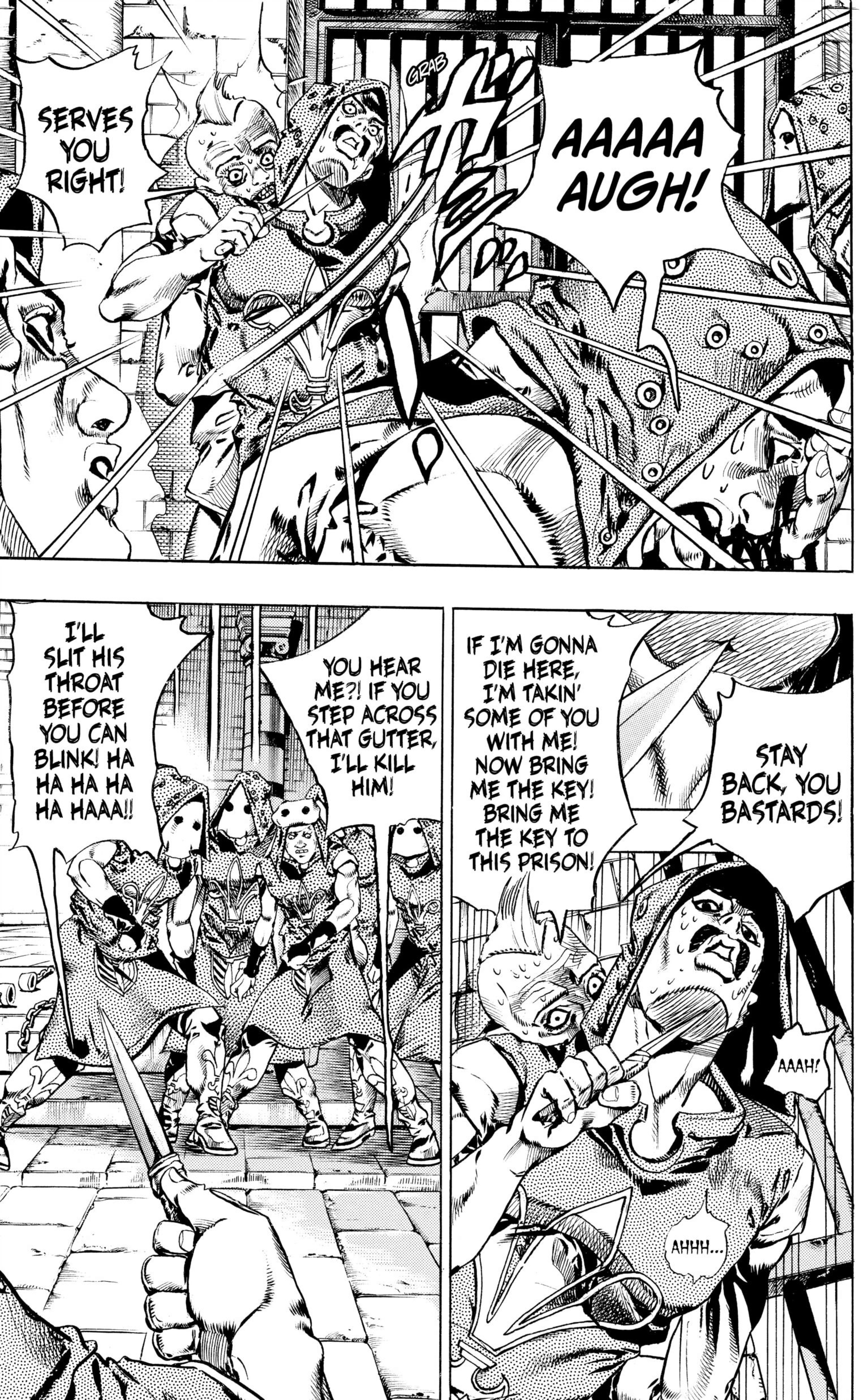

THE SPIN WAS CREATED TO **CALM**, NOT TO HARM. AND THE FAMILY CONTINUED TO DEVELOP THE TECHNIQUE THROUGH THE GENERATIONS.
EACH ZEPPELI'S DESTINY WAS TO BECOME AN **EXECUTIONER**.

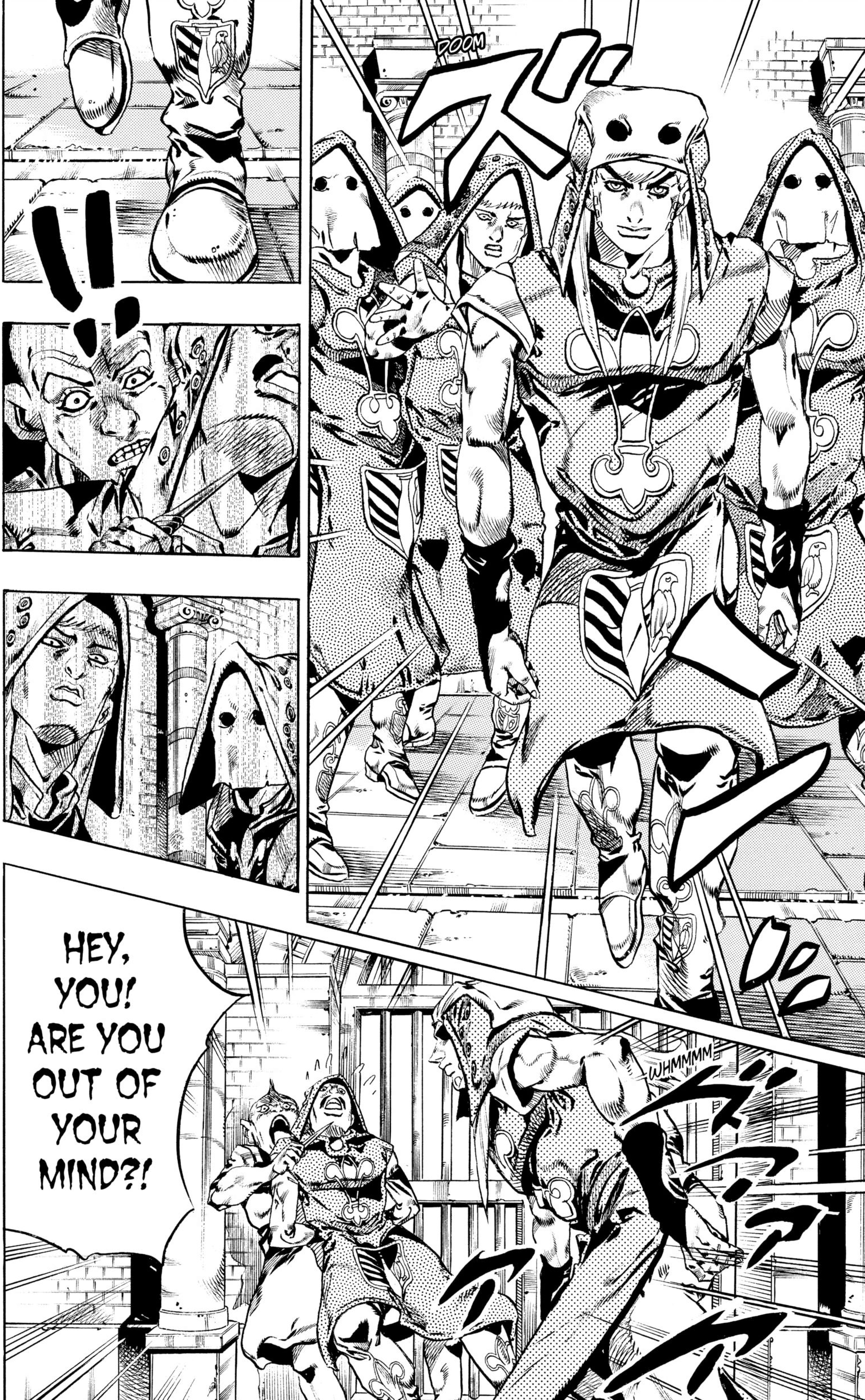

THAT'S RIGHT.
AT THE AGE OF 25, GYRO ZEPPELI WAS TO INHERIT HIS FATHER'S STATION...
...AS HIS SUCCESSOR!
GYRO ACCEPTED HIS DUTY, AND EVERYTHING WAS GOING JUST HOW IT WAS MEANT TO...
...UNTIL A BOY NAMED MARCO, WHO HAD BEEN HIRED AS A SHOE SHINER IN A NOBLEMAN'S MANOR, WAS SENTENCED TO DEATH.

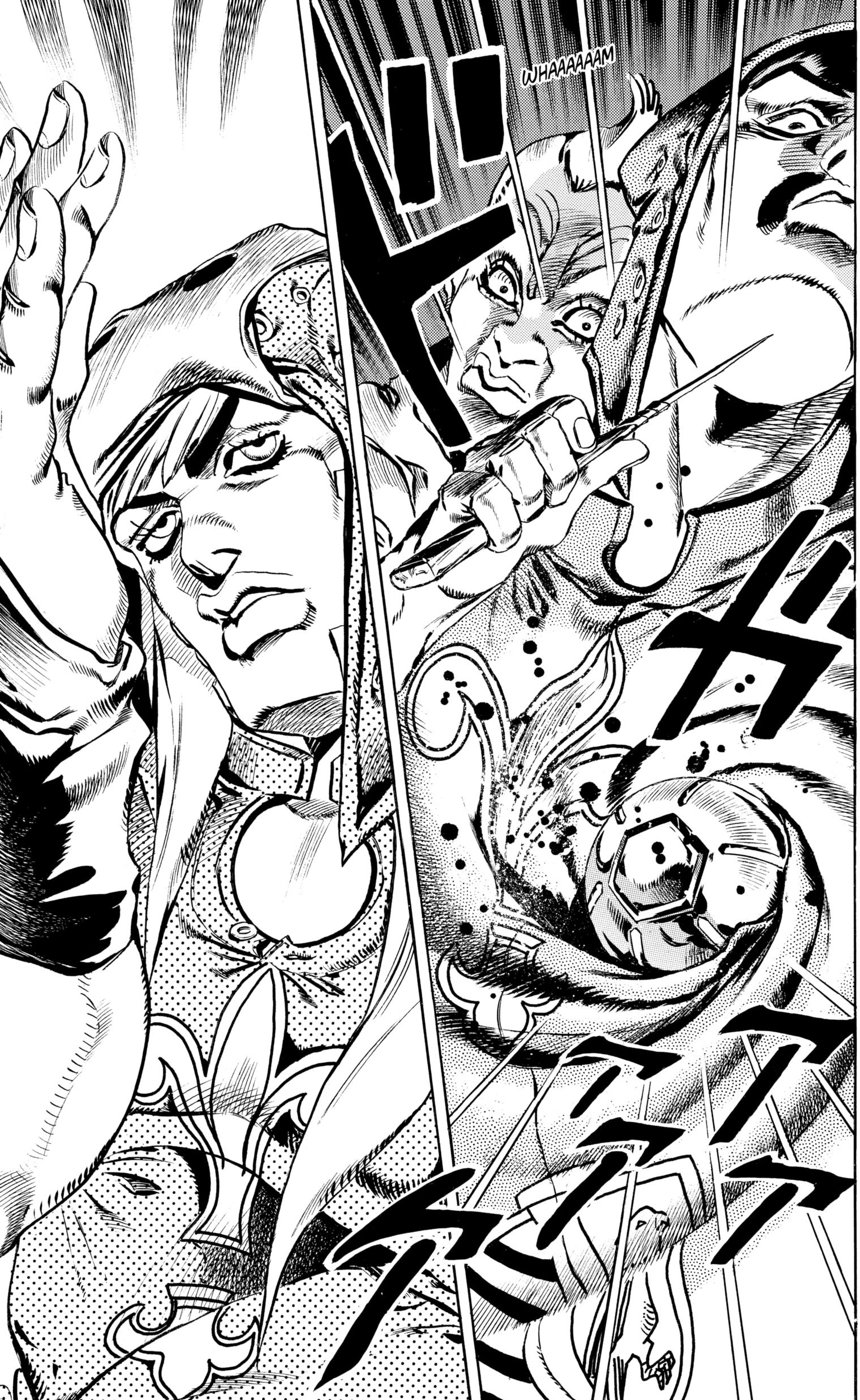
CHAPTER 21:

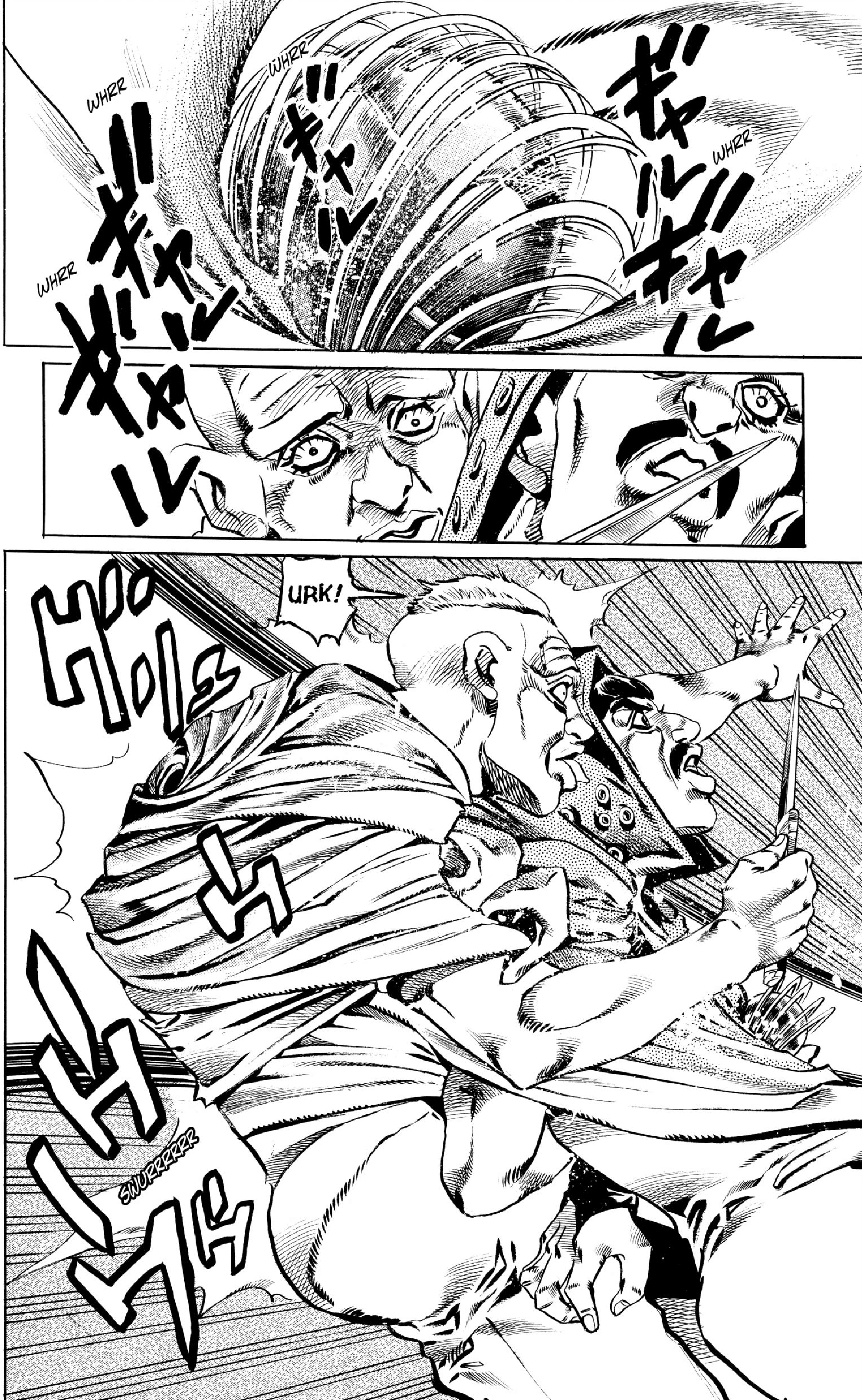
Gyro Zeppeli's Destiny, Part 2

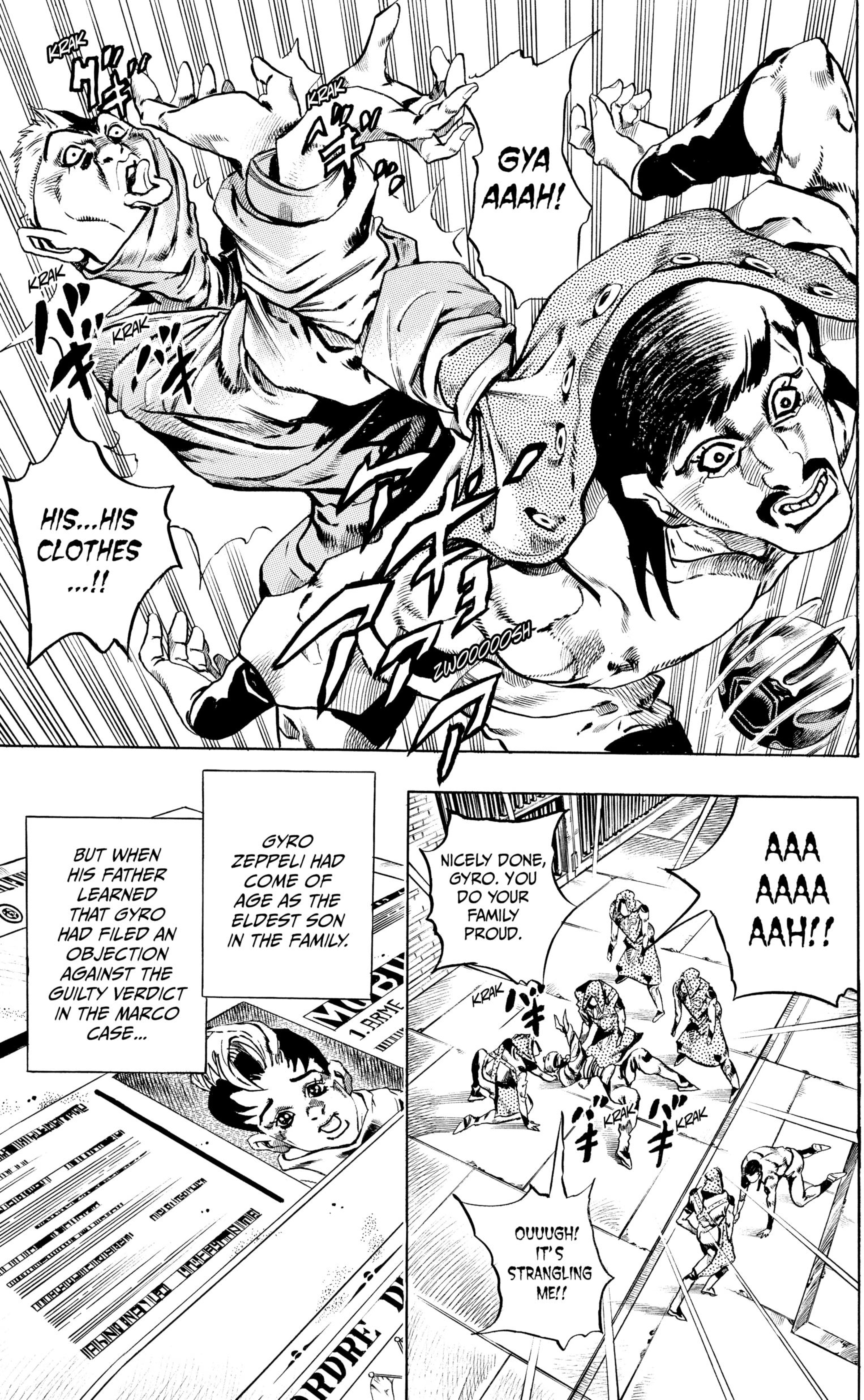

ONCE, THERE WAS A PRISONER WHO WAS MISSING ONE VERTEBRA IN HIS NECK (NORMALLY, THERE ARE SEVEN AND CONSEQUENTLY THE LOCATION FOR A FATAL BLOW WAS DIFFERENT FROM THE TYPICAL PERSON).
FORTUNATELY, GYRO'S FATHER NOTICED THE DIFFERENCE THANKS TO HIS MEDICAL EXPERTISE, AND HE EXECUTED THE MAN IN ONE PAINLESS STROKE.
BUT NO ONE HAD NOTICED THAT HIS LATEST PRISONER ALSO HAD AN ABNORMALITY.
HIS WRIST JOINTS BENT THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION THEY WERE SUPPOSED TO.
KRK
KRK
KRK
HE SLIPPED FREE FROM HIS RESTRAINTS AND TOOK HIS JAILER HOSTAGE.
SKSSSH
AAH!

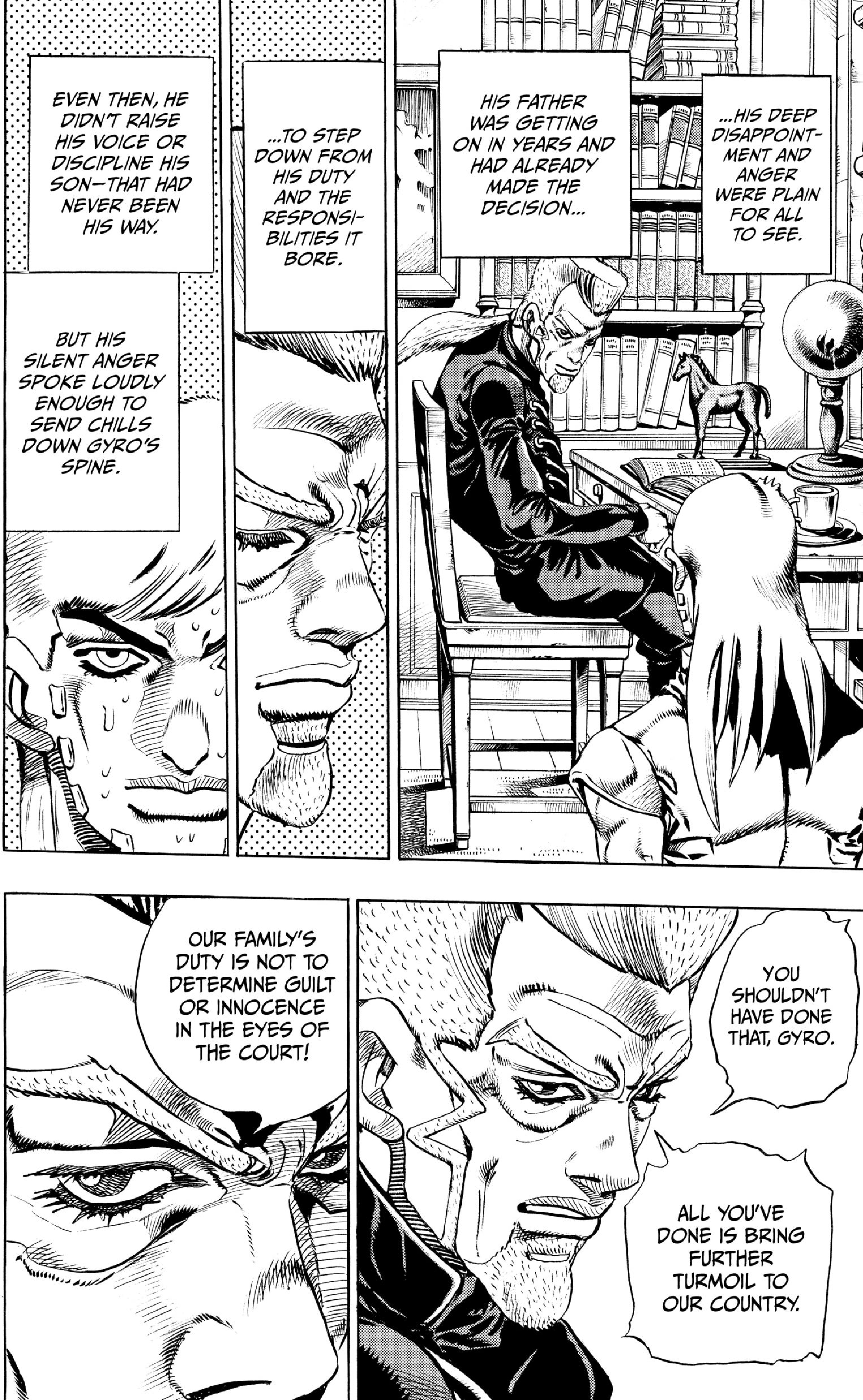

GRAB
AAAAA AUGH!
SERVES YOU RIGHT!
STAY BACK, YOU BASTARDS!
IF I'M GONNA DIE HERE, I'M TAKIN' SOME OF YOU WITH ME! NOW BRING ME THE KEY! BRING ME THE KEY TO THIS PRISON!
AAAH!
AHHH...
YOU HEAR ME?! IF YOU STEP ACROSS THAT GUTTER, I'LL KILL HIM!
I'LL SLIT HIS THROAT BEFORE YOU CAN BLINK! HA HA HA HA HA HA HAAA!!

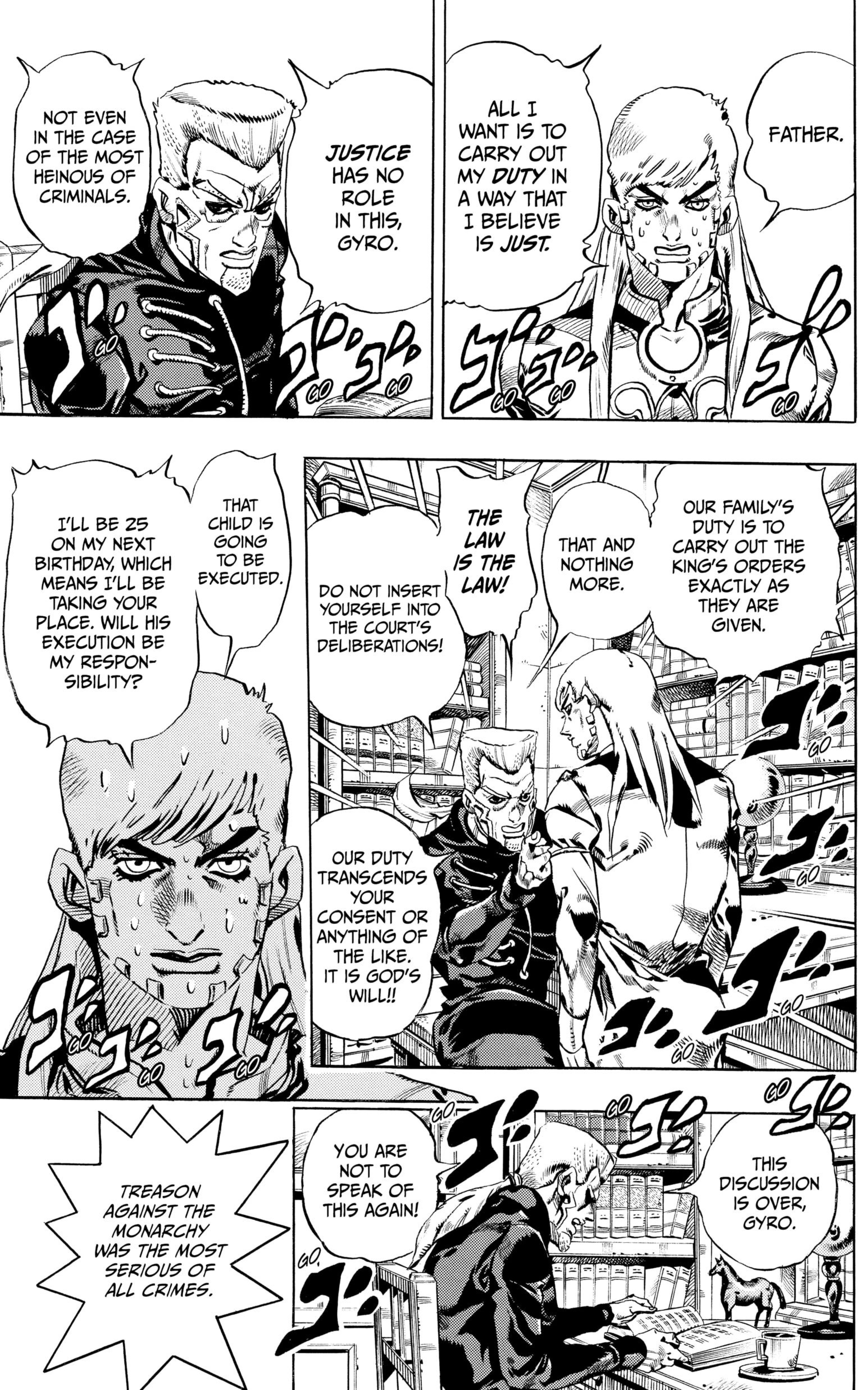

DOOM
ズ
ン
!!
HEY, YOU! ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND?!
WHMMMM
ズァァァ

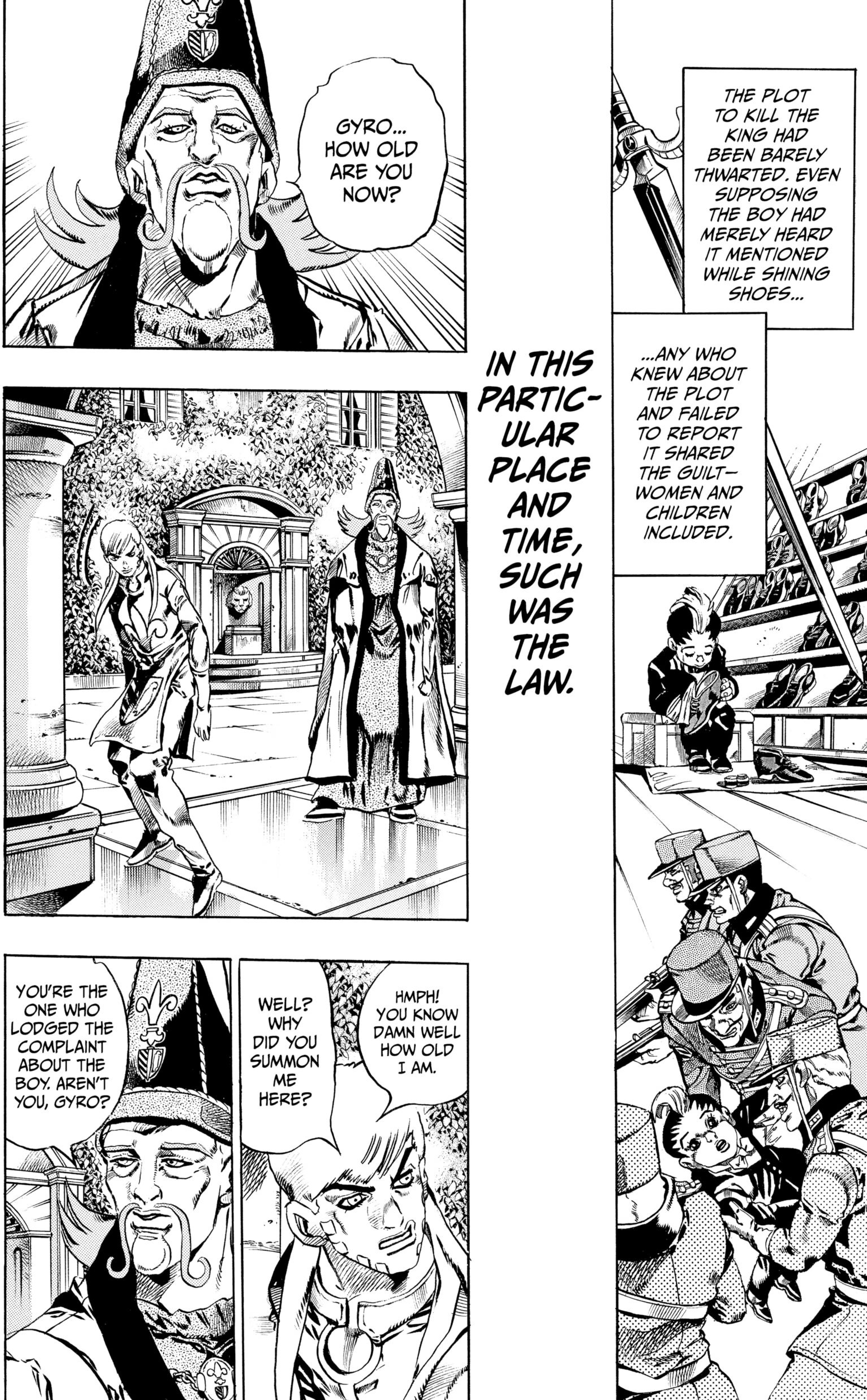

WHAAAAAAM
ド

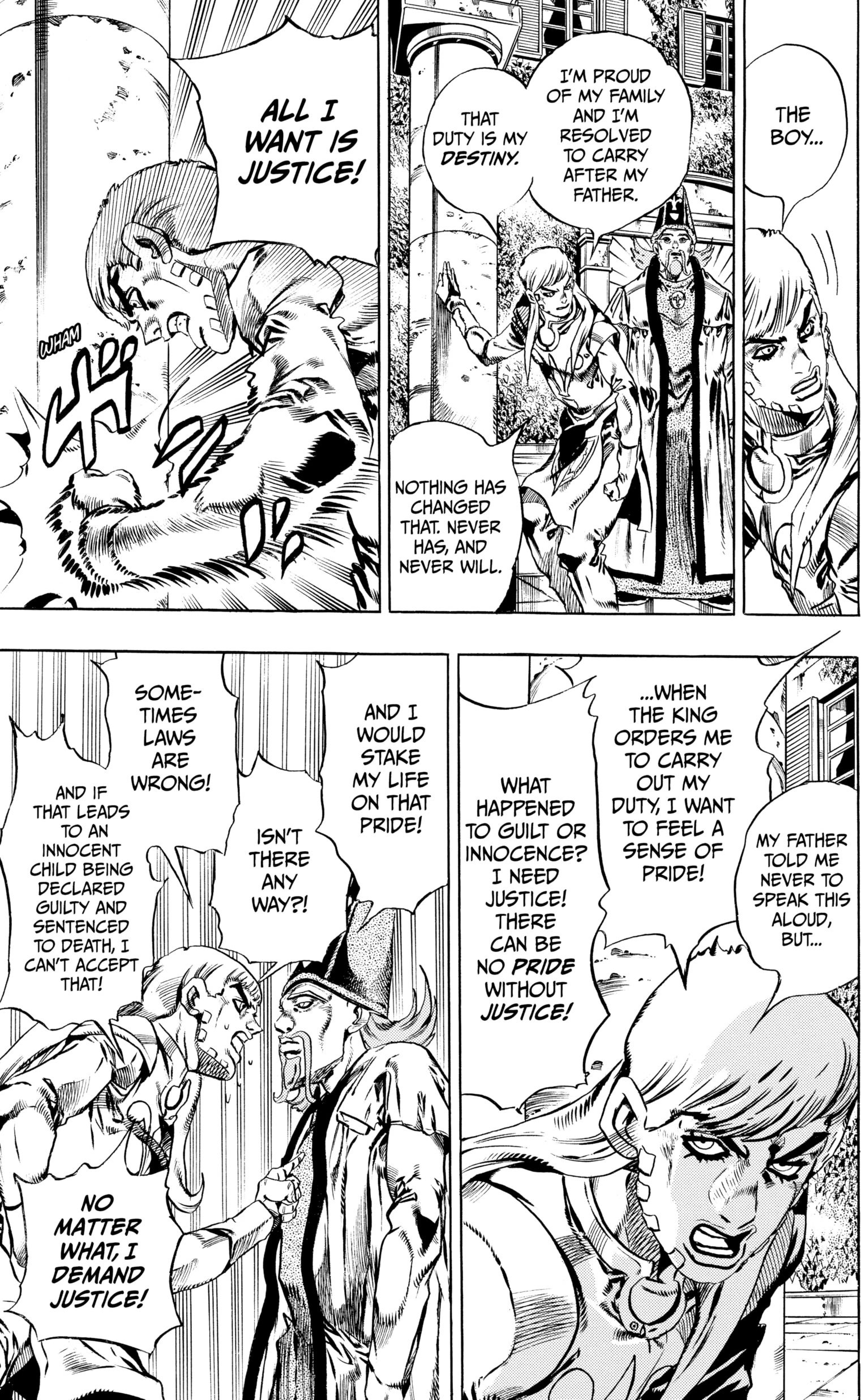

WHRR
WHRR
WHRR
WHRR
URK!
SWURRRRR

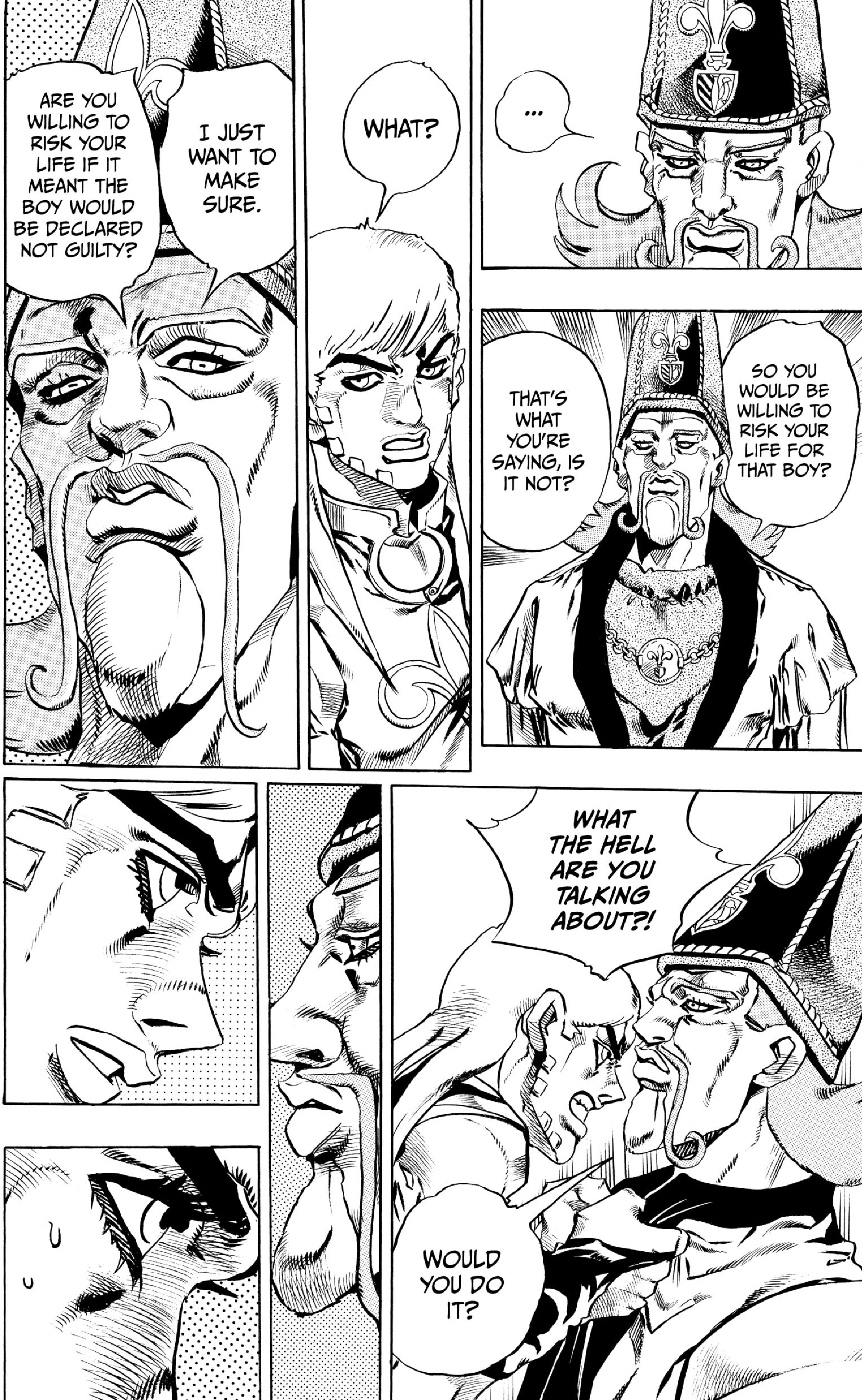

KRAK
KRAK
GYA AAAH!
KRAK
KRAK
HIS...HIS CLOTHES...!!
ZWOOOOOSH
AAA AAAA AAH!!
NICELY DONE, GYRO. YOU DO YOUR FAMILY PROUD.
KRAK
KRAK
KRAK
OUUUGH! IT'S STRANGLING ME!!
GYRO ZEPPELI HAD COME OF AGE AS THE ELDEST SON IN THE FAMILY.
BUT WHEN HIS FATHER LEARNED THAT GYRO HAD FILED AN OBJECTION AGAINST THE GUILTY VERDICT IN THE MARCO CASE...

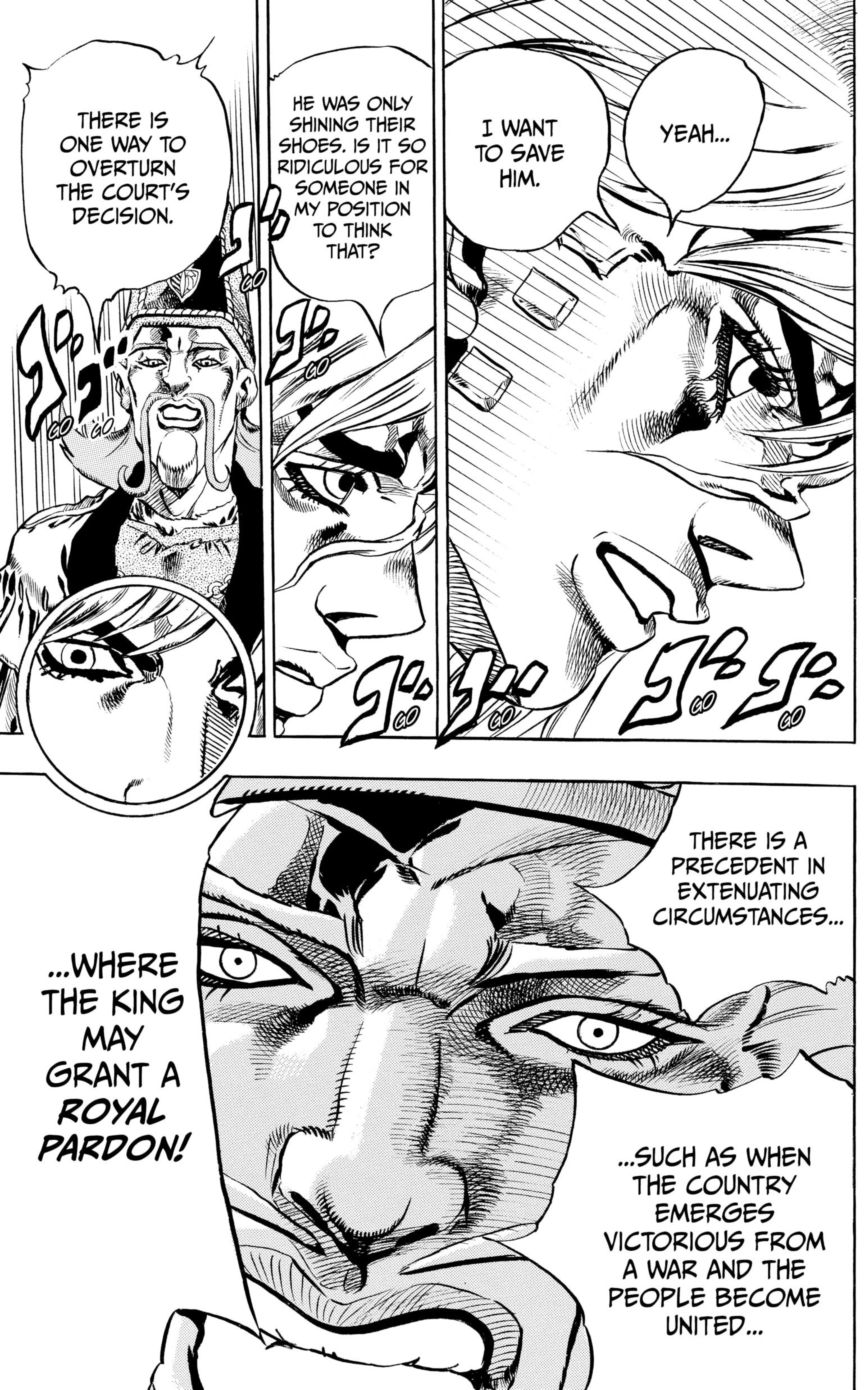

...HIS DEEP DISAPPOINTMENT AND ANGER WERE PLAIN FOR ALL TO SEE.
HIS FATHER WAS GETTING ON IN YEARS AND HAD ALREADY MADE THE DECISION...
...TO STEP DOWN FROM HIS DUTY AND THE RESPONSIBILITIES IT BORE.
EVEN THEN, HE DIDN'T RAISE HIS VOICE OR DISCIPLINE HIS SON—THAT HAD NEVER BEEN HIS WAY.
BUT HIS SILENT ANGER SPOKE LOUDLY ENOUGH TO SEND CHILLS DOWN GYRO'S SPINE.
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE THAT, GYRO.
ALL YOU'VE DONE IS BRING FURTHER TURMOIL TO OUR COUNTRY.
OUR FAMILY'S DUTY IS NOT TO DETERMINE GUILT OR INNOCENCE IN THE EYES OF THE COURT!

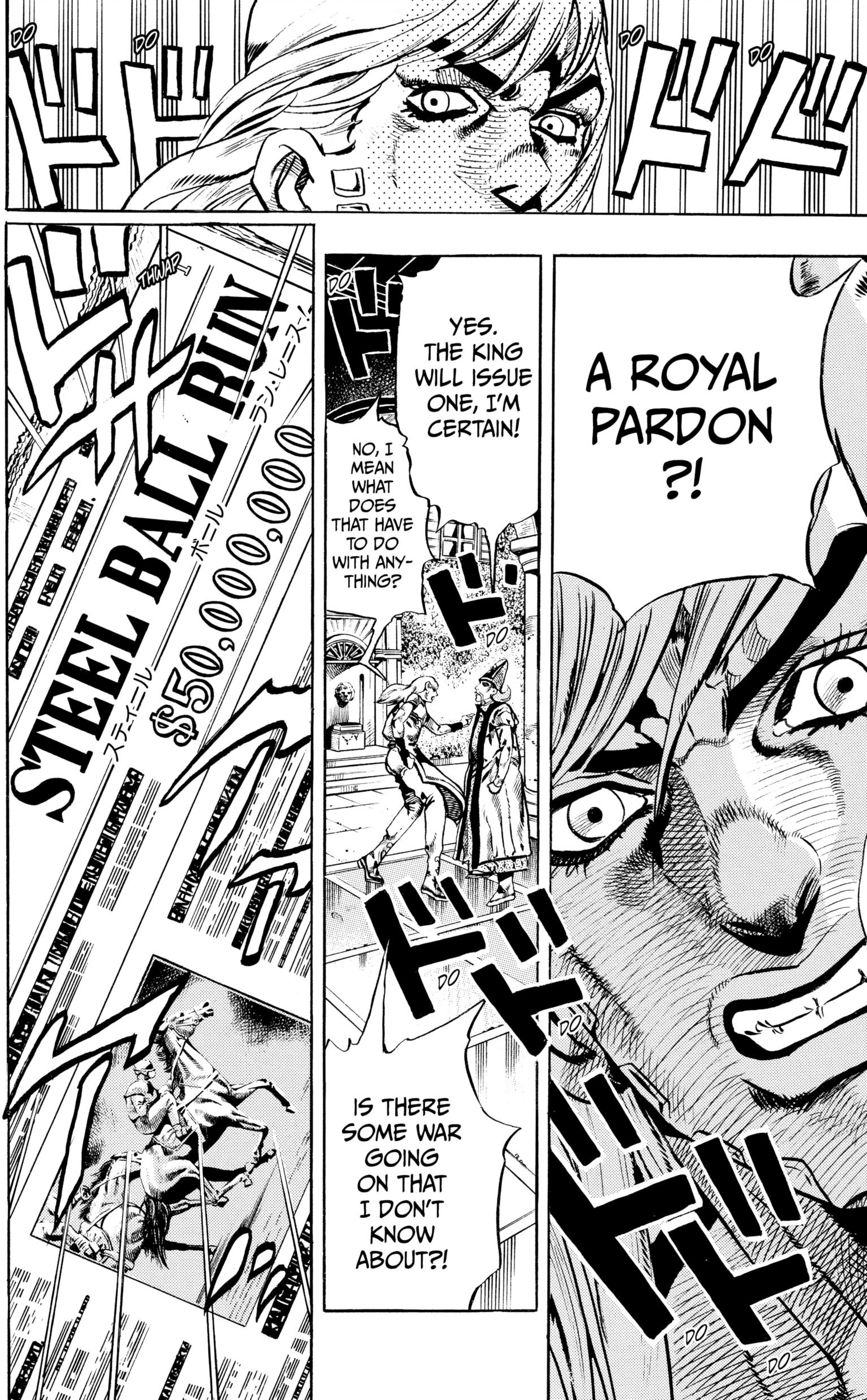

FATHER.
ALL I WANT IS TO CARRY OUT MY *DUTY* IN A WAY THAT I BELIEVE IS *JUST.*
GO GO GO
JUSTICE HAS NO ROLE IN THIS, GYRO.
NOT EVEN IN THE CASE OF THE MOST HEINOUS OF CRIMINALS.
GO GO GO
OUR FAMILY'S DUTY IS TO CARRY OUT THE KING'S ORDERS EXACTLY AS THEY ARE GIVEN.
THAT AND NOTHING MORE.
THE LAW IS THE LAW!
DO NOT INSERT YOURSELF INTO THE COURT'S DELIBERATIONS!
OUR DUTY TRANSCENDS YOUR CONSENT OR ANYTHING OF THE LIKE. IT IS GOD'S WILL!!
GO GO GO GO
THAT CHILD IS GOING TO BE EXECUTED.
I'LL BE 25 ON MY NEXT BIRTHDAY, WHICH MEANS I'LL BE TAKING YOUR PLACE. WILL HIS EXECUTION BE MY RESPONSIBILITY?
GO GO GO
THIS DISCUSSION IS OVER, GYRO.
YOU ARE NOT TO SPEAK OF THIS AGAIN!
GO GO GO GO
TREASON AGAINST THE MONARCHY WAS THE MOST SERIOUS OF ALL CRIMES.

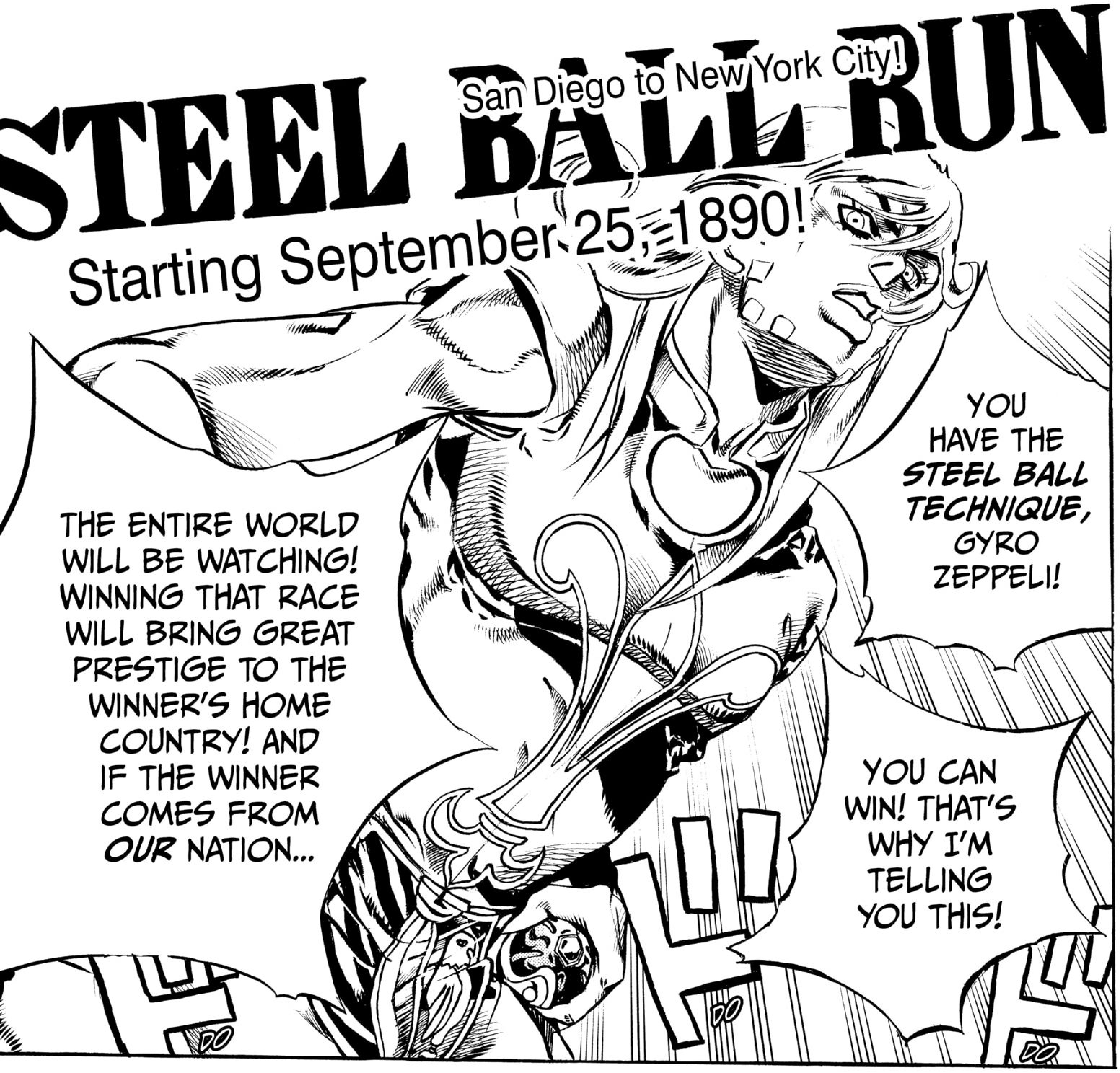

THE PLOT TO KILL THE KING HAD BEEN BARELY THWARTED. EVEN SUPPOSING THE BOY HAD MERELY HEARD IT MENTIONED WHILE SHINING SHOES...
...ANY WHO KNEW ABOUT THE PLOT AND FAILED TO REPORT IT SHARED THE GUILT—WOMEN AND CHILDREN INCLUDED.
IN THIS PARTICULAR PLACE AND TIME, SUCH WAS THE LAW.
GYRO... HOW OLD ARE YOU NOW?
HMPH! YOU KNOW DAMN WELL HOW OLD I AM.
WELL? WHY DID YOU SUMMON ME HERE?
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO LODGED THE COMPLAINT ABOUT THE BOY. AREN'T YOU, GYRO?

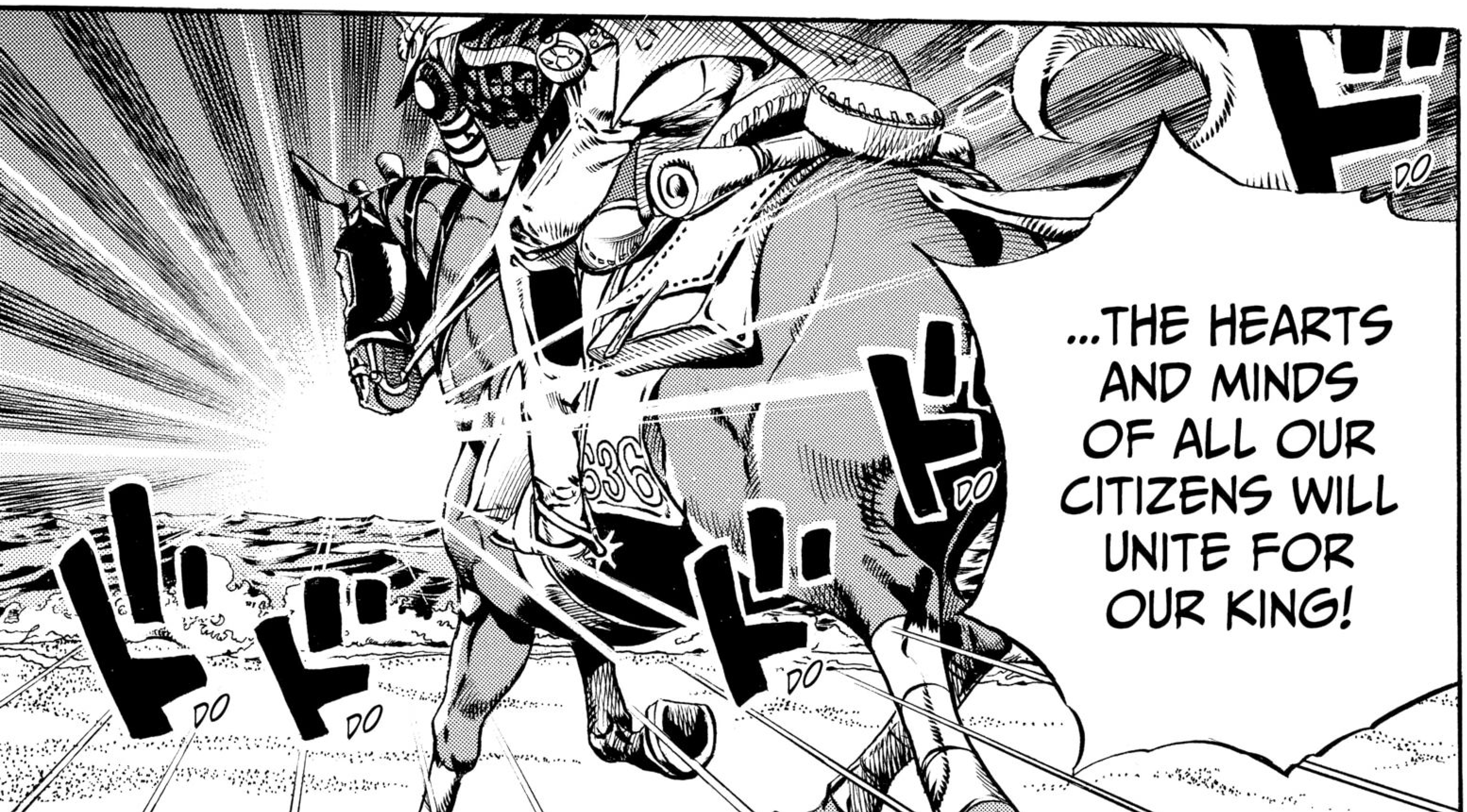

THE BOY...
I'M PROUD OF MY FAMILY AND I'M RESOLVED TO CARRY AFTER MY FATHER.
THAT DUTY IS MY *DESTINY.*
NOTHING HAS CHANGED THAT. NEVER HAS, AND NEVER WILL.
ALL I WANT IS JUSTICE!
WHAM
MY FATHER TOLD ME NEVER TO SPEAK THIS ALOUD, BUT...
...WHEN THE KING ORDERS ME TO CARRY OUT MY DUTY, I WANT TO FEEL A SENSE OF PRIDE!
WHAT HAPPENED TO GUILT OR INNOCENCE? I NEED JUSTICE! THERE CAN BE NO *PRIDE* WITHOUT *JUSTICE!*
AND I WOULD STAKE MY LIFE ON THAT PRIDE!
SOME-TIMES LAWS ARE WRONG!
ISN'T THERE ANY WAY?!
AND IF THAT LEADS TO AN INNOCENT CHILD BEING DECLARED GUILTY AND SENTENCED TO DEATH, I CAN'T ACCEPT THAT!
NO MATTER WHAT, I DEMAND JUSTICE!

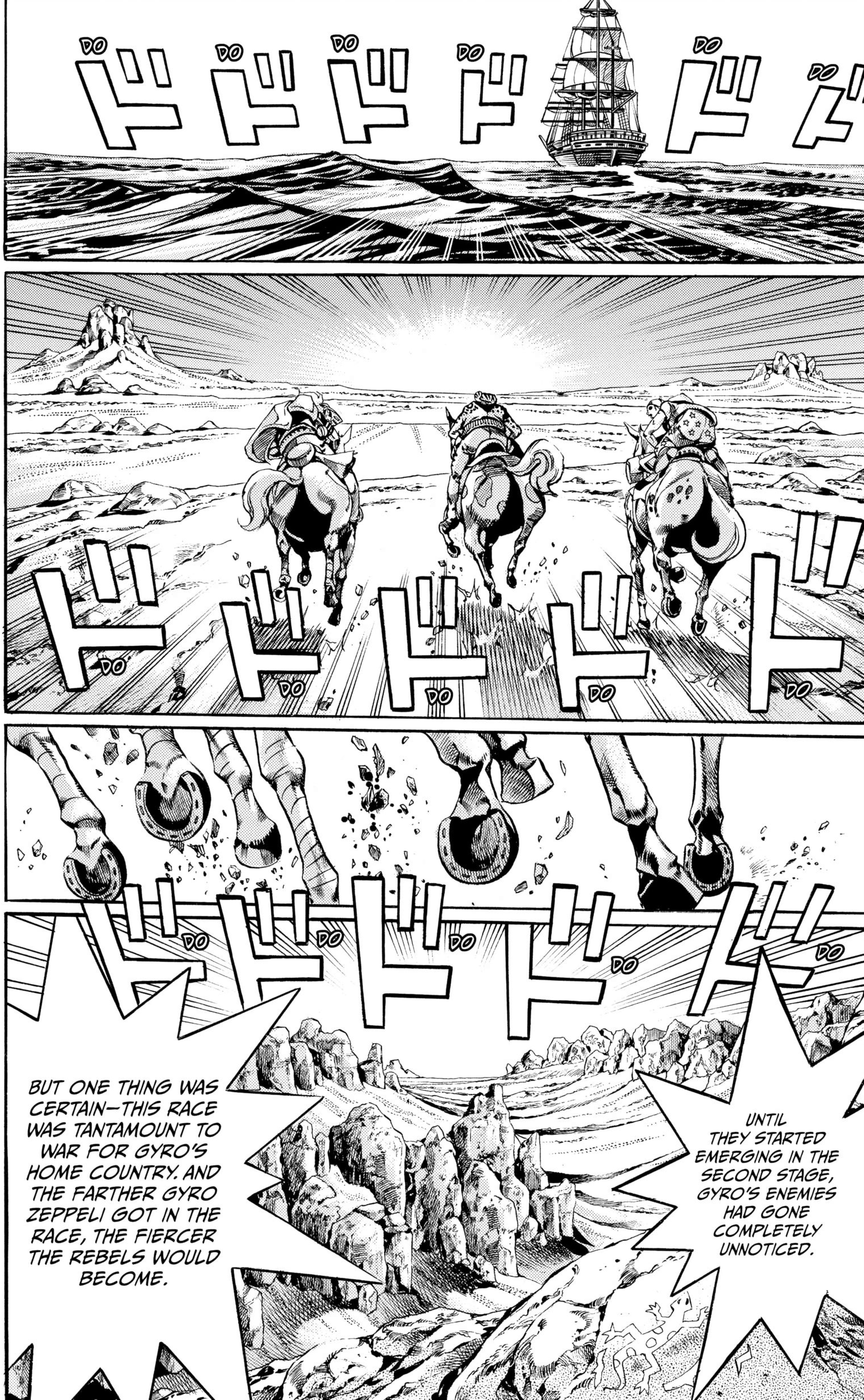

...
SO YOU WOULD BE WILLING TO RISK YOUR LIFE FOR THAT BOY?
THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE SAYING, IS IT NOT?
WHAT?
I JUST WANT TO MAKE SURE.
ARE YOU WILLING TO RISK YOUR LIFE IF IT MEANT THE BOY WOULD BE DECLARED NOT GUILTY?
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
WOULD YOU DO IT?


YEAH...
I WANT TO SAVE HIM.
GO GO GO GO
HE WAS ONLY SHINING THEIR SHOES. IS IT SO RIDICULOUS FOR SOMEONE IN MY POSITION TO THINK THAT?
GO GO GO
THERE IS ONE WAY TO OVERTURN THE COURT'S DECISION.
GO GO GO
THERE IS A PRECEDENT IN EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES...
...SUCH AS WHEN THE COUNTRY EMERGES VICTORIOUS FROM A WAR AND THE PEOPLE BECOME UNITED...
...WHERE THE KING MAY GRANT A *ROYAL PARDON!*

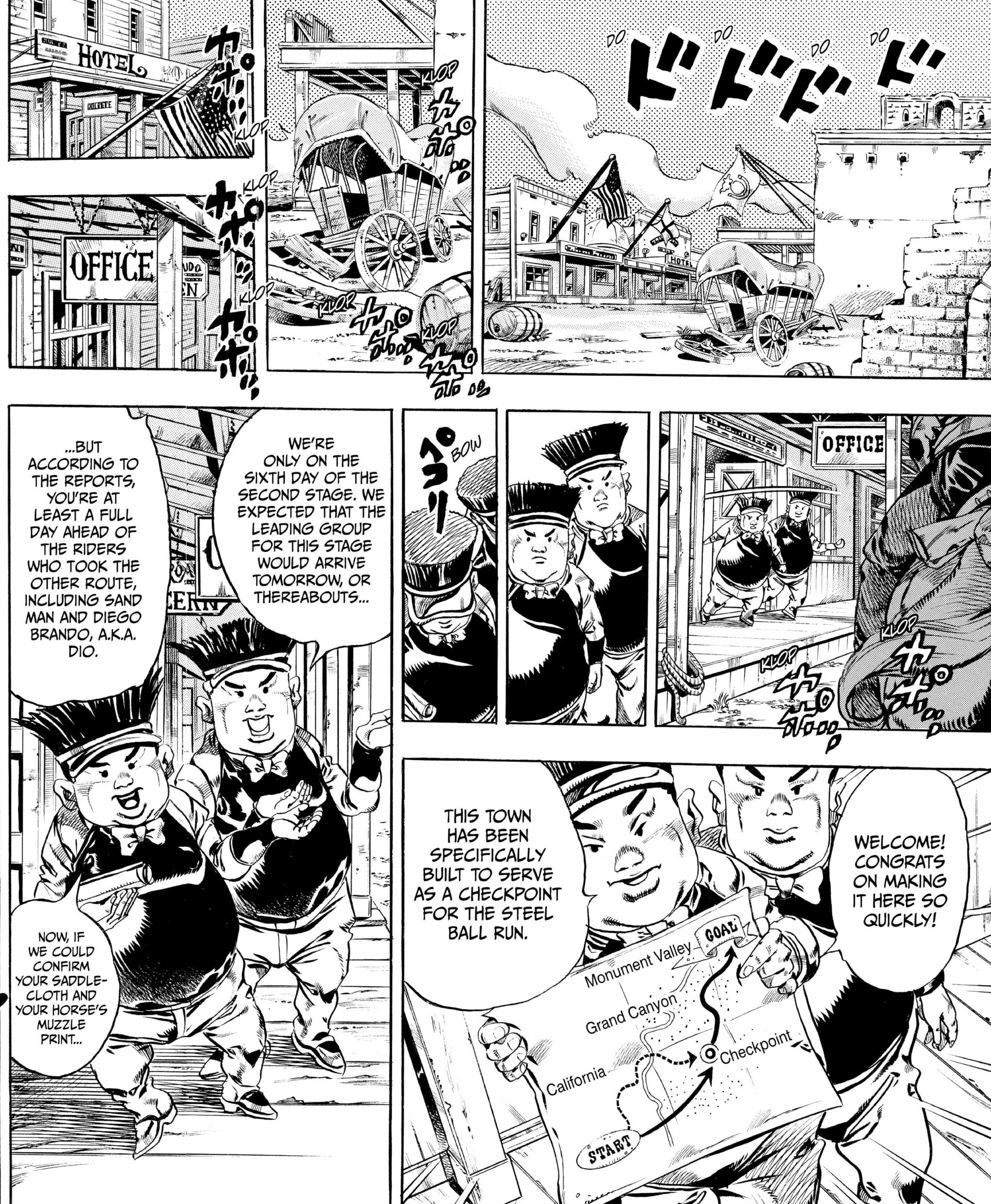

DO DO ドドド
DO DO ドドド
A ROYAL PARDON ?!
YES. THE KING WILL ISSUE ONE, I'M CERTAIN!
NO, I MEAN WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH ANYTHING?
DO ド
DO ドドドド
DO DO
IS THERE SOME WAR GOING ON THAT I DON'T KNOW ABOUT?!
THWAP
ドン
STEEL BALL RUN
スティール・ボール・ラン・レース!
$50,000,000

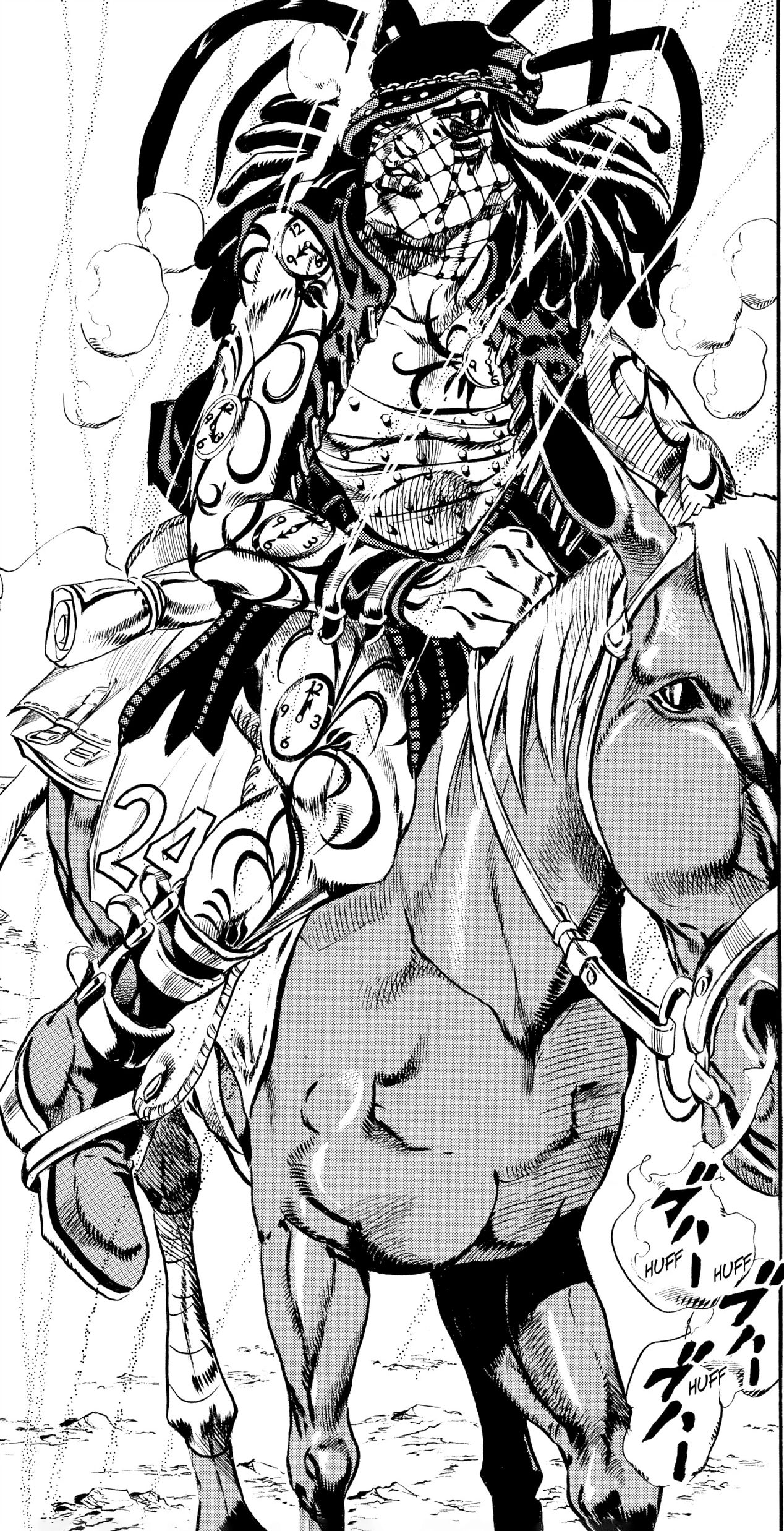

STEEL BALL RUN
San Diego to New York City!
Starting September 25, 1890!
YOU HAVE THE ***STEEL BALL TECHNIQUE,*** GYRO ZEPPELI!
YOU CAN WIN! THAT'S WHY I'M TELLING YOU THIS!
THE ENTIRE WORLD WILL BE WATCHING! WINNING THAT RACE WILL BRING GREAT PRESTIGE TO THE WINNER'S HOME COUNTRY! AND IF THE WINNER COMES FROM ***OUR*** NATION...
DO
DO
DO


...THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF ALL OUR CITIZENS WILL UNITE FOR OUR KING!
636
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO

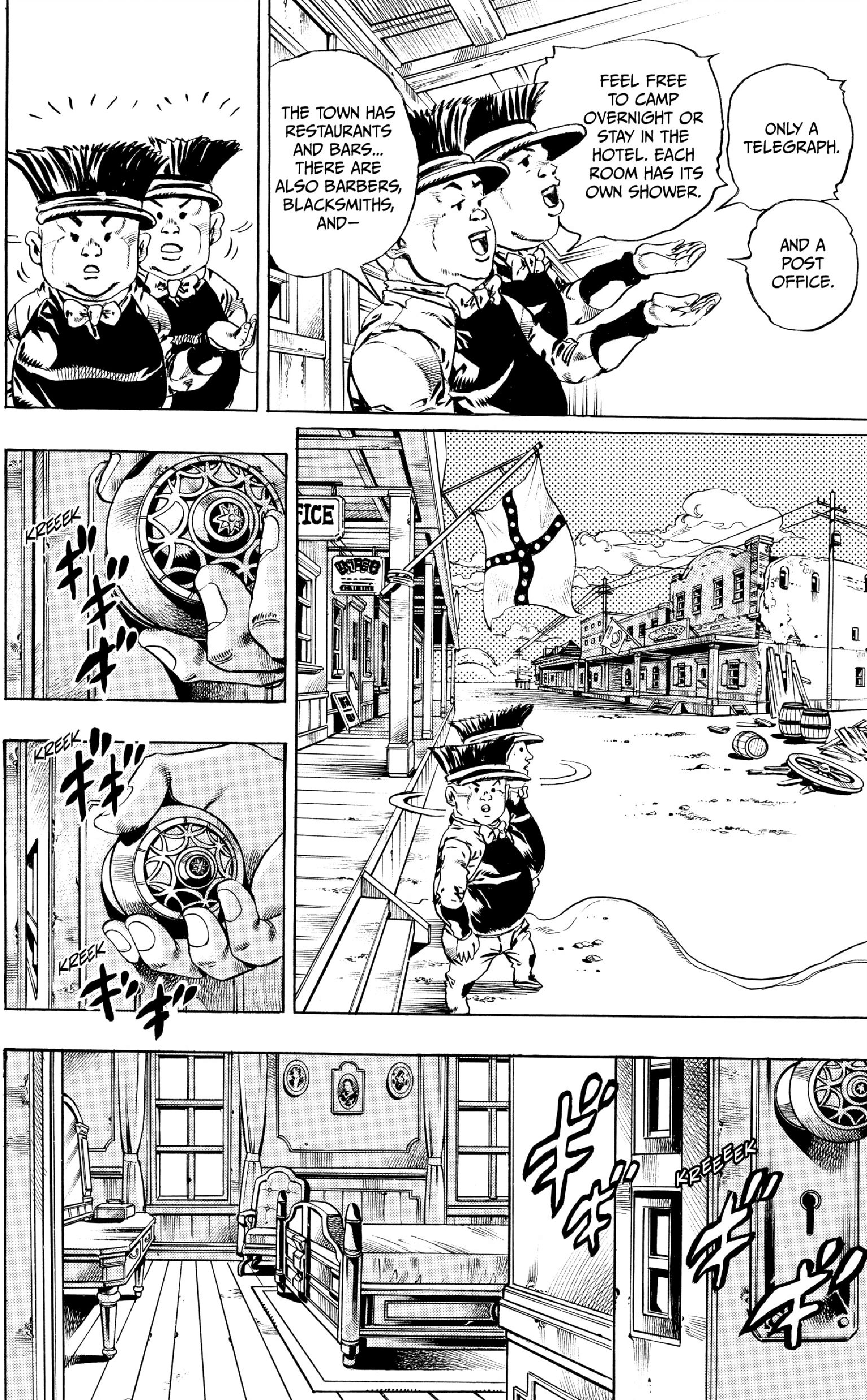

ドドドドドド
DO DO DO DO DO DO
ドドドドド
DO DO DO DO DO
ドドドドド
DO DO DO DO DO
UNTIL THEY STARTED EMERGING IN THE SECOND STAGE, GYRO'S ENEMIES HAD GONE COMPLETELY UNNOTICED.
BUT ONE THING WAS CERTAIN—THIS RACE WAS TANTAMOUNT TO WAR FOR GYRO'S HOME COUNTRY. AND THE FARTHER GYRO ZEPPELI GOT IN THE RACE, THE FIERCER THE REBELS WOULD BECOME.

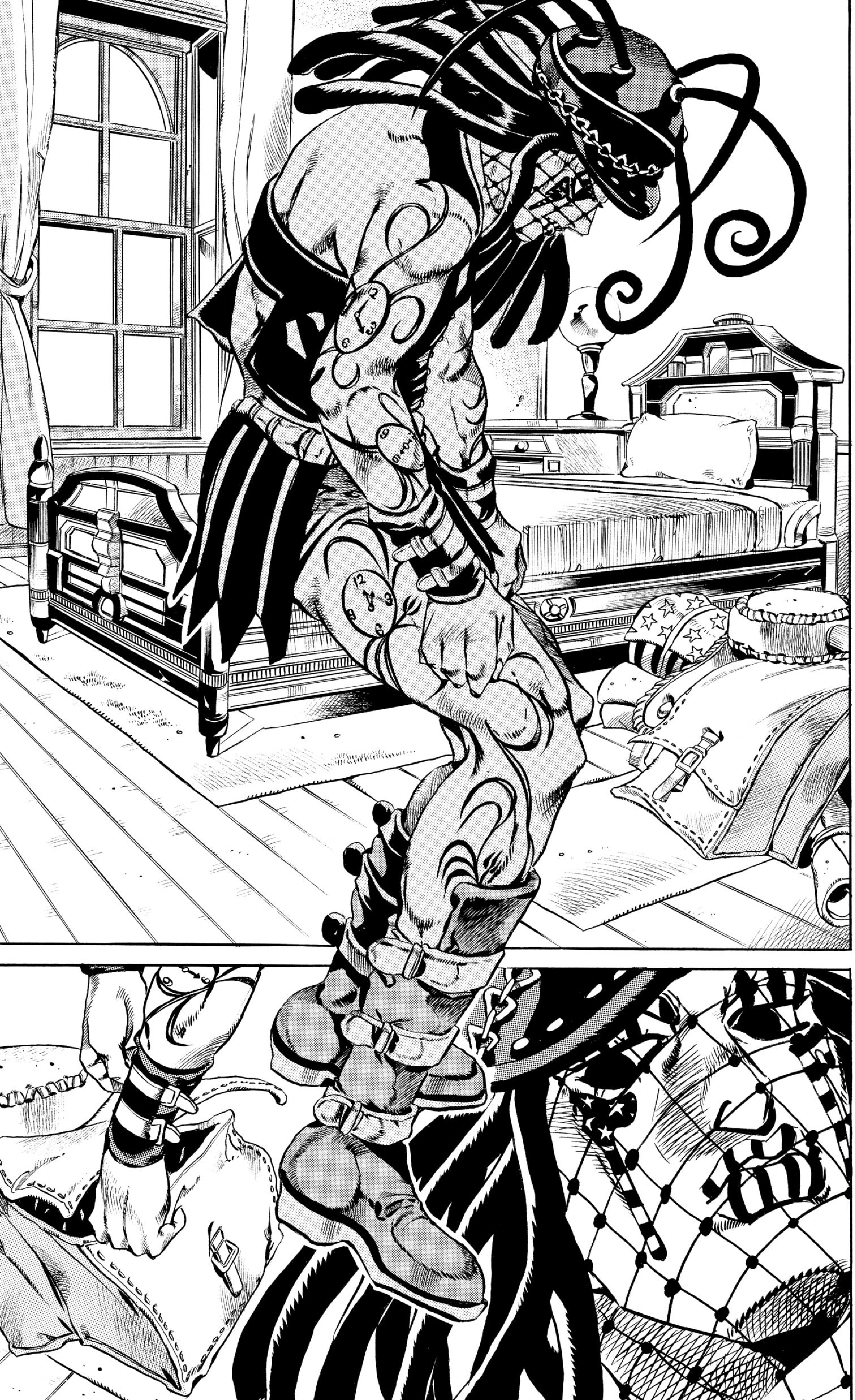
ドバァーッ
VWOOOM
ドドドドド
DO DO DO DO DO
ドドドドドド
DO DO DO DO DO DO

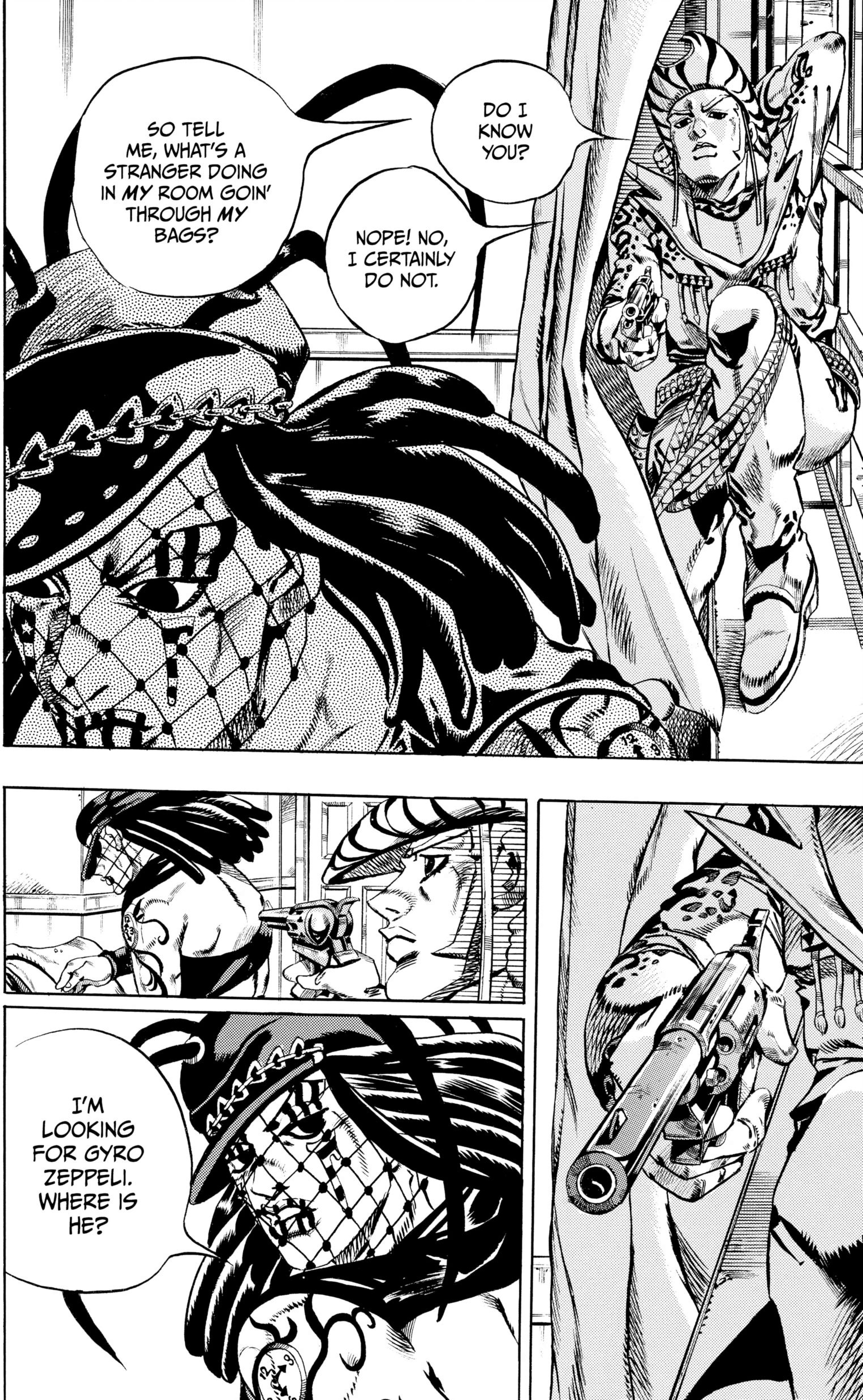

DO DO DO DO
ドドドド
HOTEL
KLOP KLOP
カポッ カポッ
KLOP KLOP
OFFICE
KLOP KLOP
カポッ カポッ
KLOP
KLOP
カポッ
OFFICE
BOW
ペコリ
WELCOME! CONGRATS ON MAKING IT HERE SO QUICKLY!
THIS TOWN HAS BEEN SPECIFICALLY BUILT TO SERVE AS A CHECKPOINT FOR THE STEEL BALL RUN.
GOAL
Monument Valley
Grand Canyon
Checkpoint
California
START
WE'RE ONLY ON THE SIXTH DAY OF THE SECOND STAGE. WE EXPECTED THAT THE LEADING GROUP FOR THIS STAGE WOULD ARRIVE TOMORROW, OR THEREABOUTS...
...BUT ACCORDING TO THE REPORTS, YOU'RE AT LEAST A FULL DAY AHEAD OF THE RIDERS WHO TOOK THE OTHER ROUTE, INCLUDING SAND MAN AND DIEGO BRANDO, A.K.A. DIO.
NOW, IF WE COULD CONFIRM YOUR SADDLECLOTH AND YOUR HORSE'S MUZZLE PRINT...

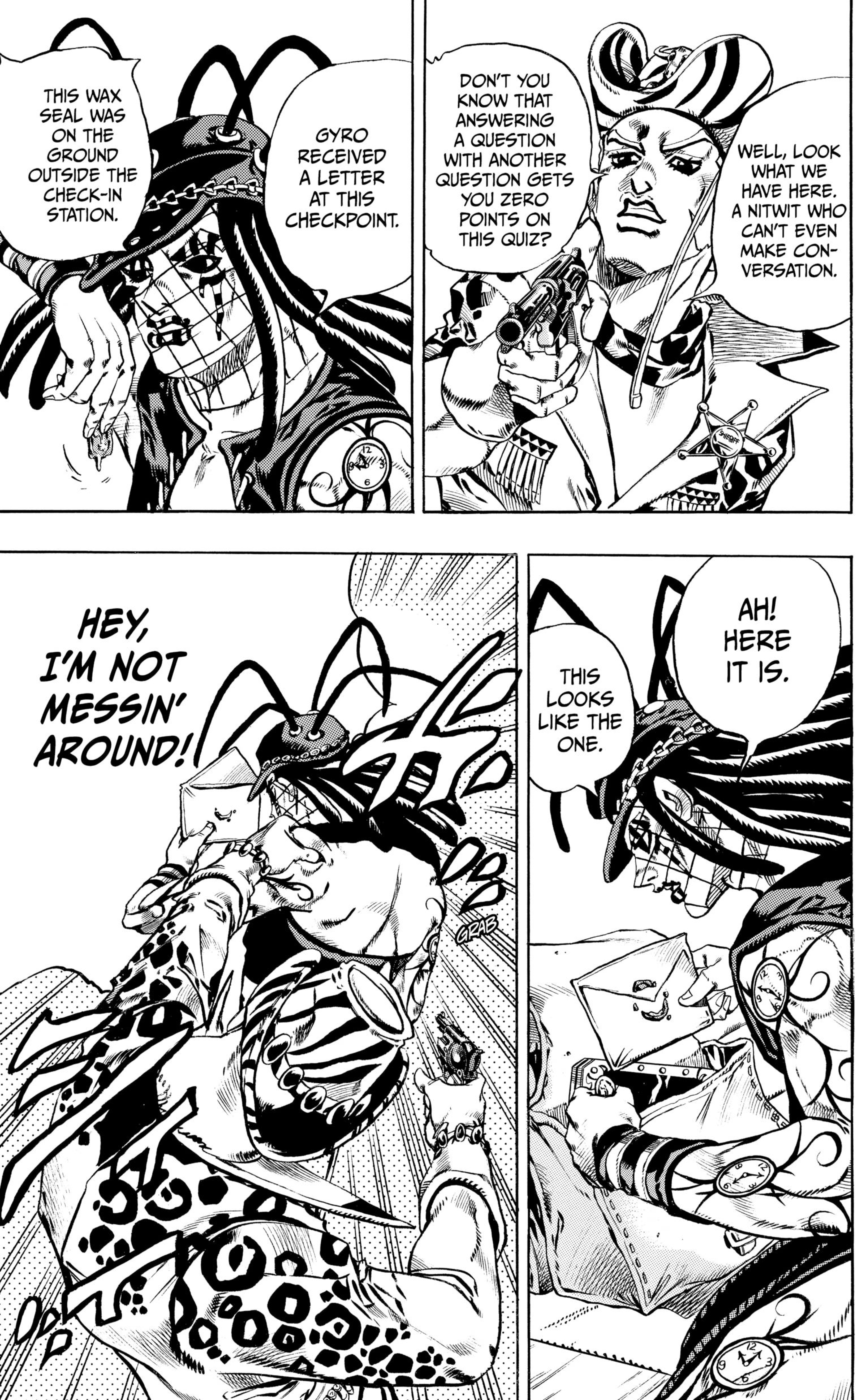

24
HUFF
ブハー
HUFF
ブハー
HUFF
ブハー

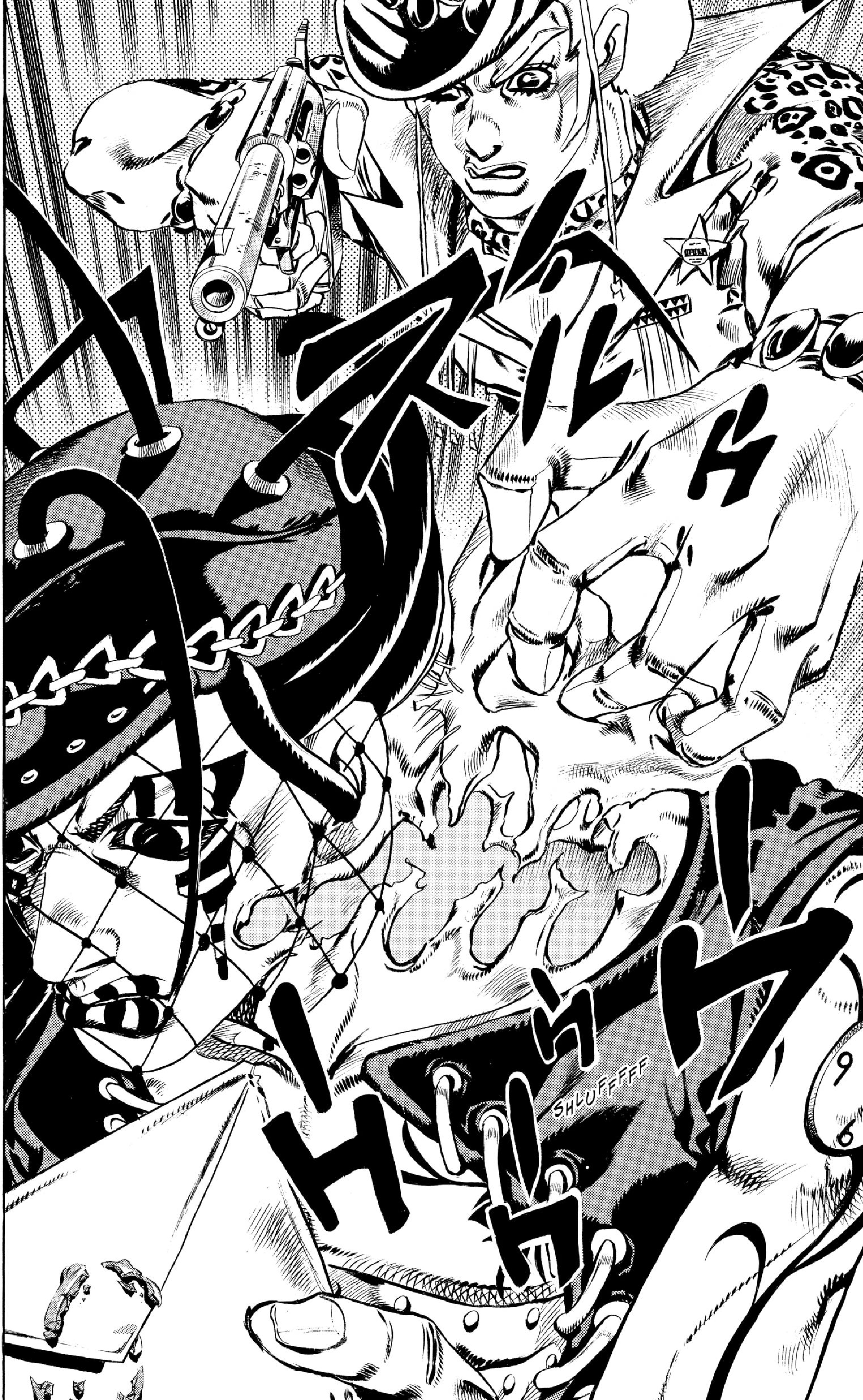
YOU ARE CURRENTLY IN FOURTH PLACE...
...MR. OYE.
MR. MOUNTAIN TIM WAS THE FIRST TO ARRIVE.
ALTHOUGH, MR. GYRO ZEPPELI INSISTED THAT HE ARRIVED ONE NECK AHEAD, WHILE MR. JOHNNY JOESTAR ALSO CLAIMED THAT HE WAS FIRST. WE WERE WORRIED WE MIGHT HAVE A SCUFFLE ON OUR HANDS.
BUT WE REMINDED THEM THAT THIS IS MERELY A CHECKPOINT, AND STANDINGS HERE HAVE NO BEARING ON POINTS OR THE RACE RECORDS, SO THEY SETTLED DOWN.
THAT'S RIGHT.
...
YOU GOT A PHONE AROUND HERE?
SWRL
SWRL
HOTEL
ROADRUN
GLANCE
チラリ
I'M...
...NOT FIRST?
SWRL
SWRL
SWRL
2
12
3
9
6

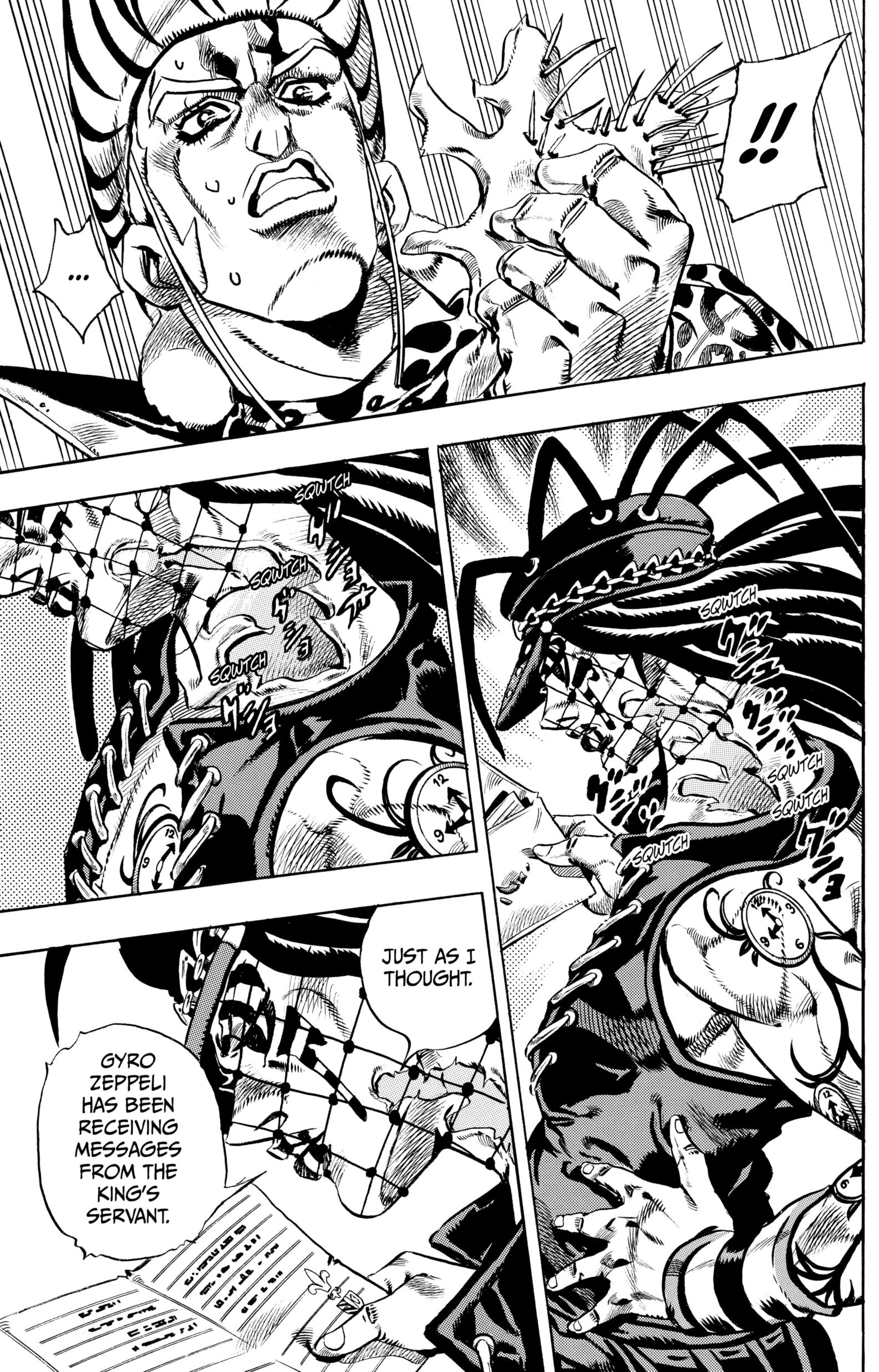

ONLY A TELEGRAPH.
AND A POST OFFICE.
FEEL FREE TO CAMP OVERNIGHT OR STAY IN THE HOTEL. EACH ROOM HAS ITS OWN SHOWER.
THE TOWN HAS RESTAURANTS AND BARS... THERE ARE ALSO BARBERS, BLACKSMITHS, AND—
FICE
KREEEK
ギギギ
KREEK
ギギ
KREEK
ギギ
KREEEK
ギギギギ

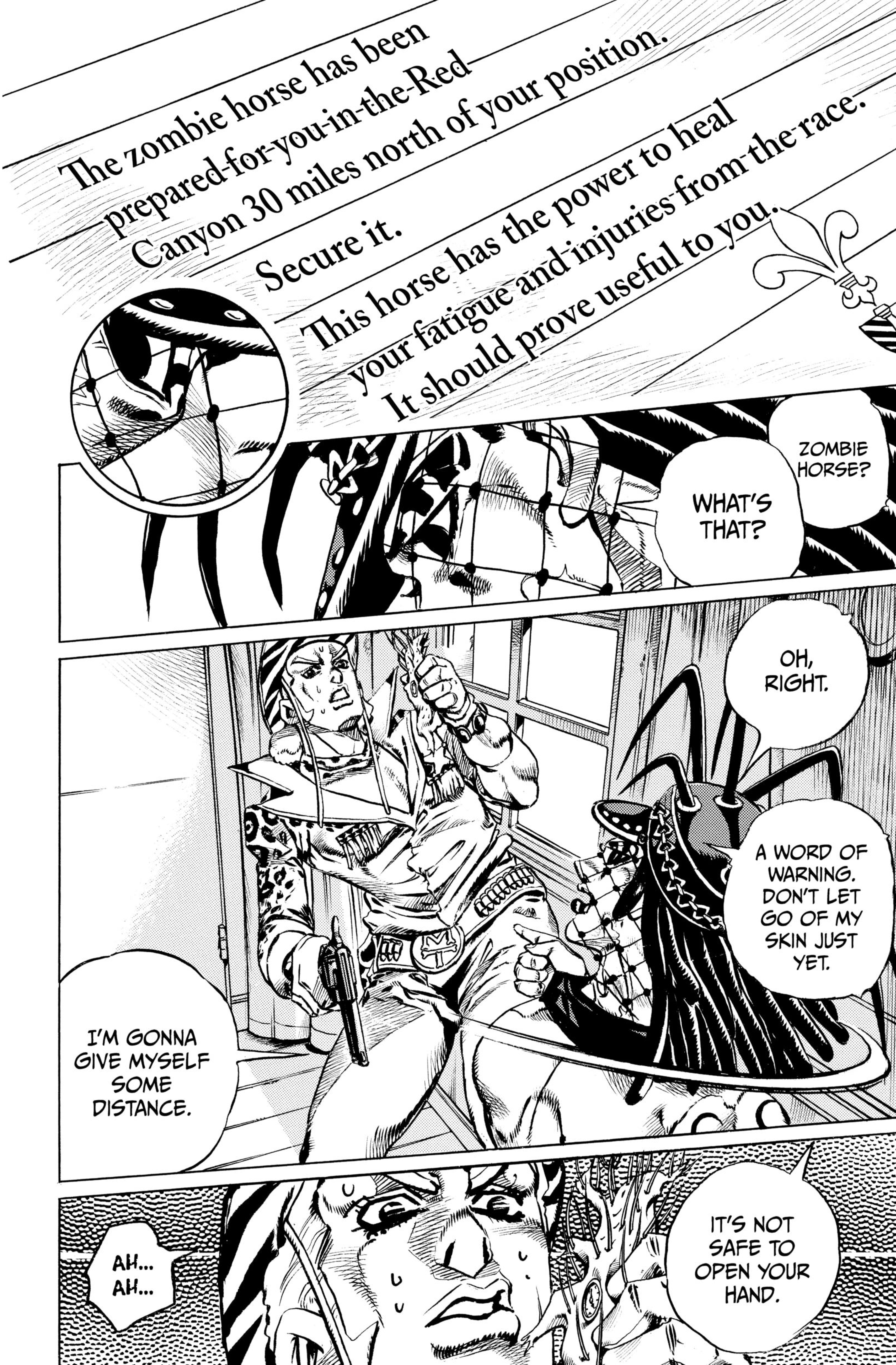


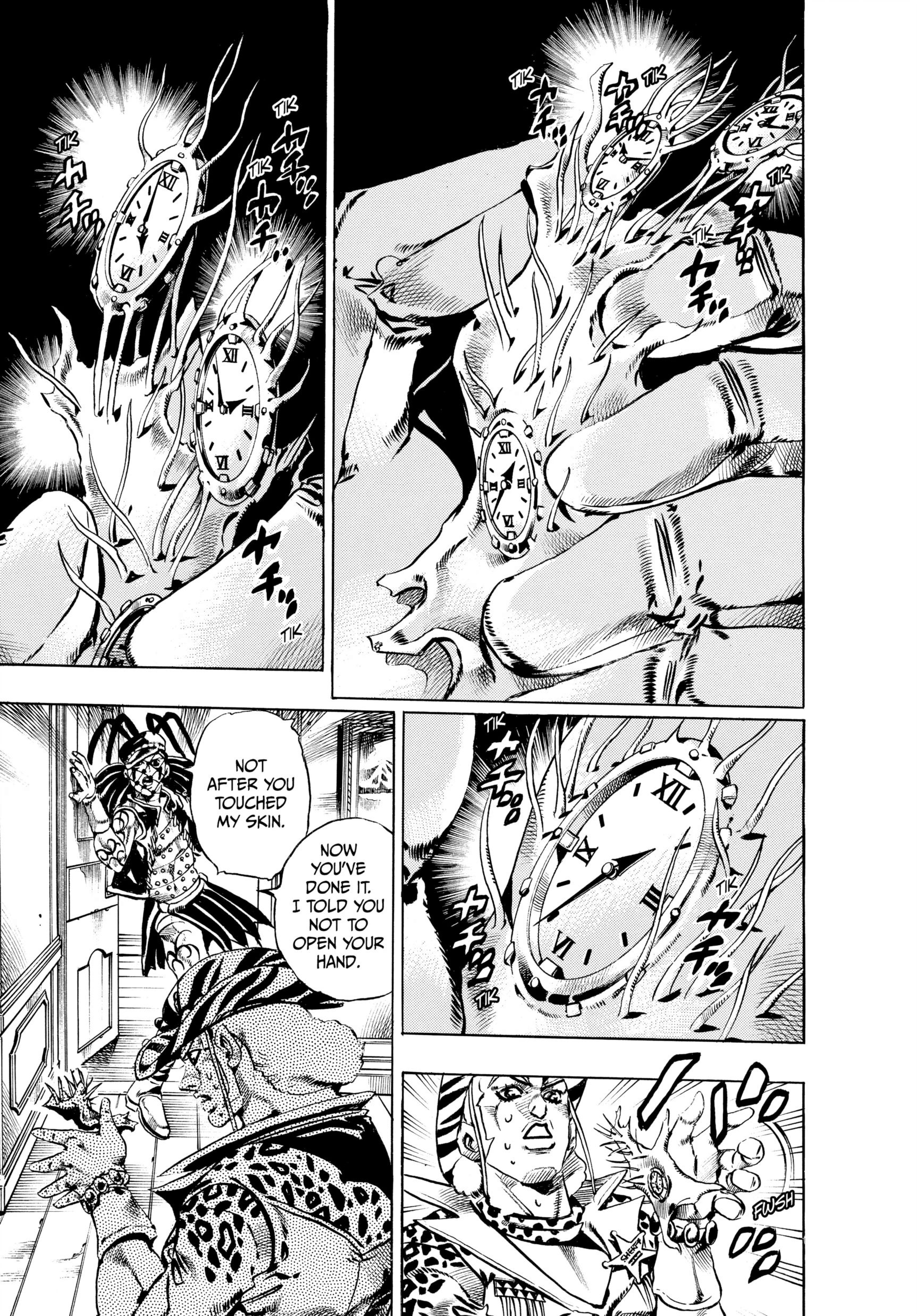

DO I KNOW YOU?
NOPE! NO, I CERTAINLY DO NOT.
SO TELL ME, WHAT'S A STRANGER DOING IN *MY* ROOM GOIN' THROUGH *MY* BAGS?
I'M LOOKING FOR GYRO ZEPPELI. WHERE IS HE?

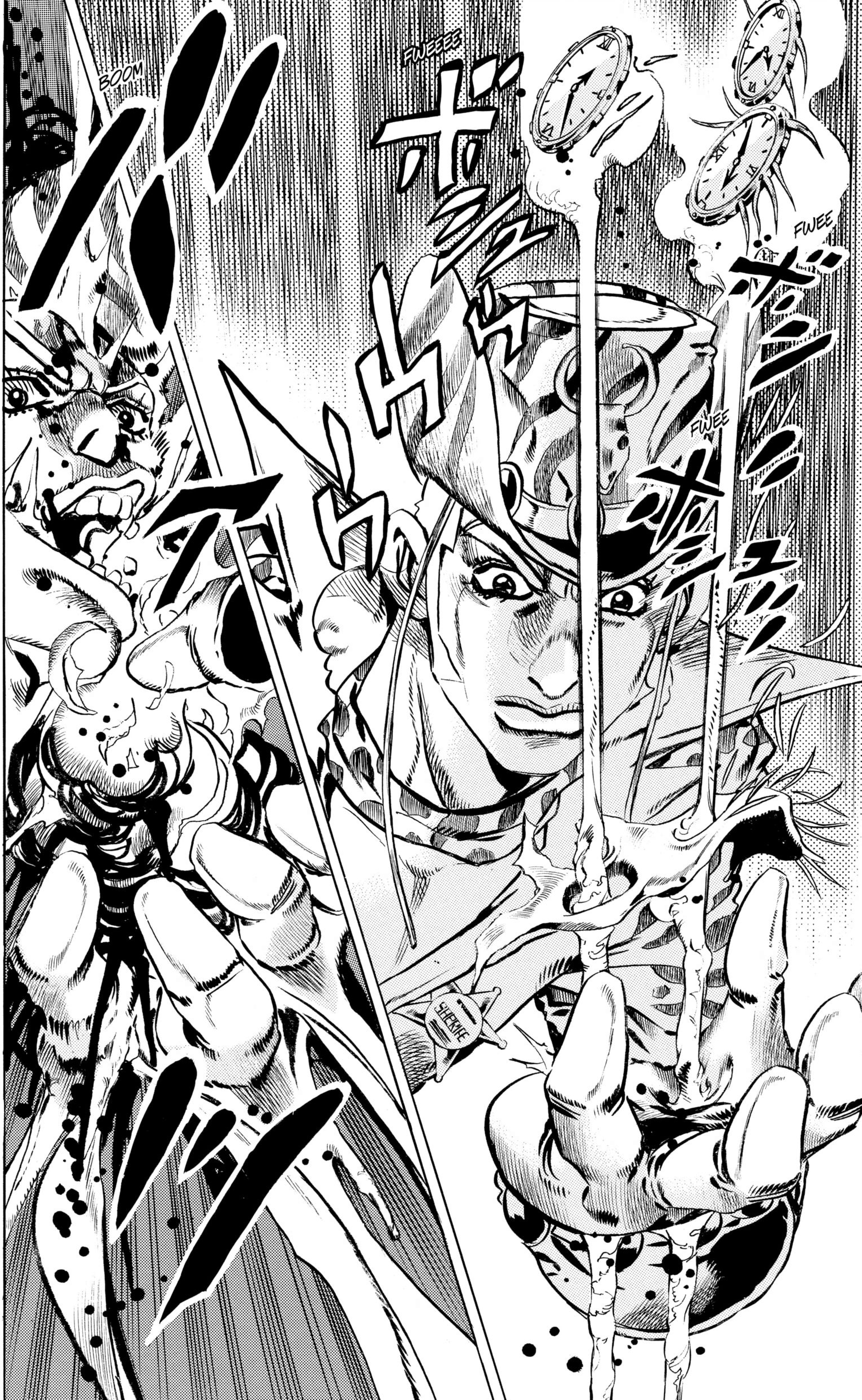

THIS WAX SEAL WAS ON THE GROUND OUTSIDE THE CHECK-IN STATION.
GYRO RECEIVED A LETTER AT THIS CHECKPOINT.
DON'T YOU KNOW THAT ANSWERING A QUESTION WITH ANOTHER QUESTION GETS YOU ZERO POINTS ON THIS QUIZ?
WELL, LOOK WHAT WE HAVE HERE. A NITWIT WHO CAN'T EVEN MAKE CONVERSATION.
SHERIFF
HEY, I'M NOT MESSIN' AROUND!
GRAB
AH! HERE IT IS.
THIS LOOKS LIKE THE ONE.

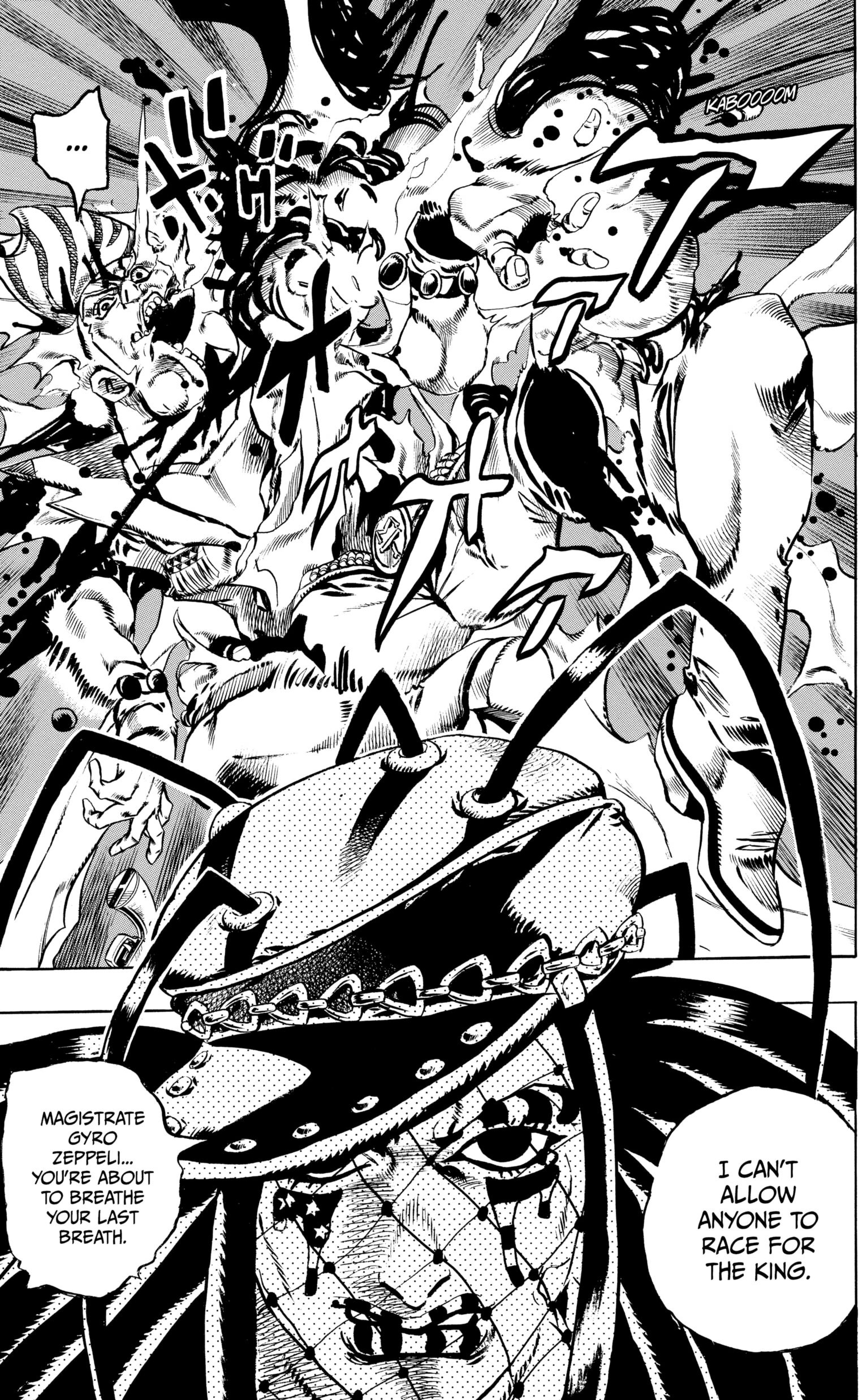

SHLUFFFFF


!!
...
SQWTCH
SQWTCH
SQWTCH
SQWTCH
SQWTCH
SQWTCH
SQWTCH
SQWTCH
JUST AS I THOUGHT.
GYRO ZEPPELI HAS BEEN RECEIVING MESSAGES FROM THE KING'S SERVANT.


The zombie horse has been prepared for you in the Red Canyon 30 miles north of your position.
Secure it.
This horse has the power to heal your fatigue and injuries from the race.
It should prove useful to you.
ZOMBIE HORSE?
WHAT'S THAT?
OH, RIGHT.
A WORD OF WARNING. DON'T LET GO OF MY SKIN JUST YET.
I'M GONNA GIVE MYSELF SOME DISTANCE.
IT'S NOT SAFE TO OPEN YOUR HAND.
AH... AH...


TIK
TIK
TIK
TIK
TIK
TIK
TIK
TIK
TIK
TIK
TIK
NOT AFTER YOU TOUCHED MY SKIN.
NOW YOU'VE DONE IT. I TOLD YOU NOT TO OPEN YOUR HAND.
FWSH
SHERIFF


FWEE
FWEE
FWEEEE
BOOM
SHERIFF


KABOOOOM
...
I CAN'T ALLOW ANYONE TO RACE FOR THE KING.
MAGISTRATE GYRO ZEPPELI... YOU'RE ABOUT TO BREATHE YOUR LAST BREATH.

CHAPTER 22:

The Terrorist from a Faraway Country, Part 1

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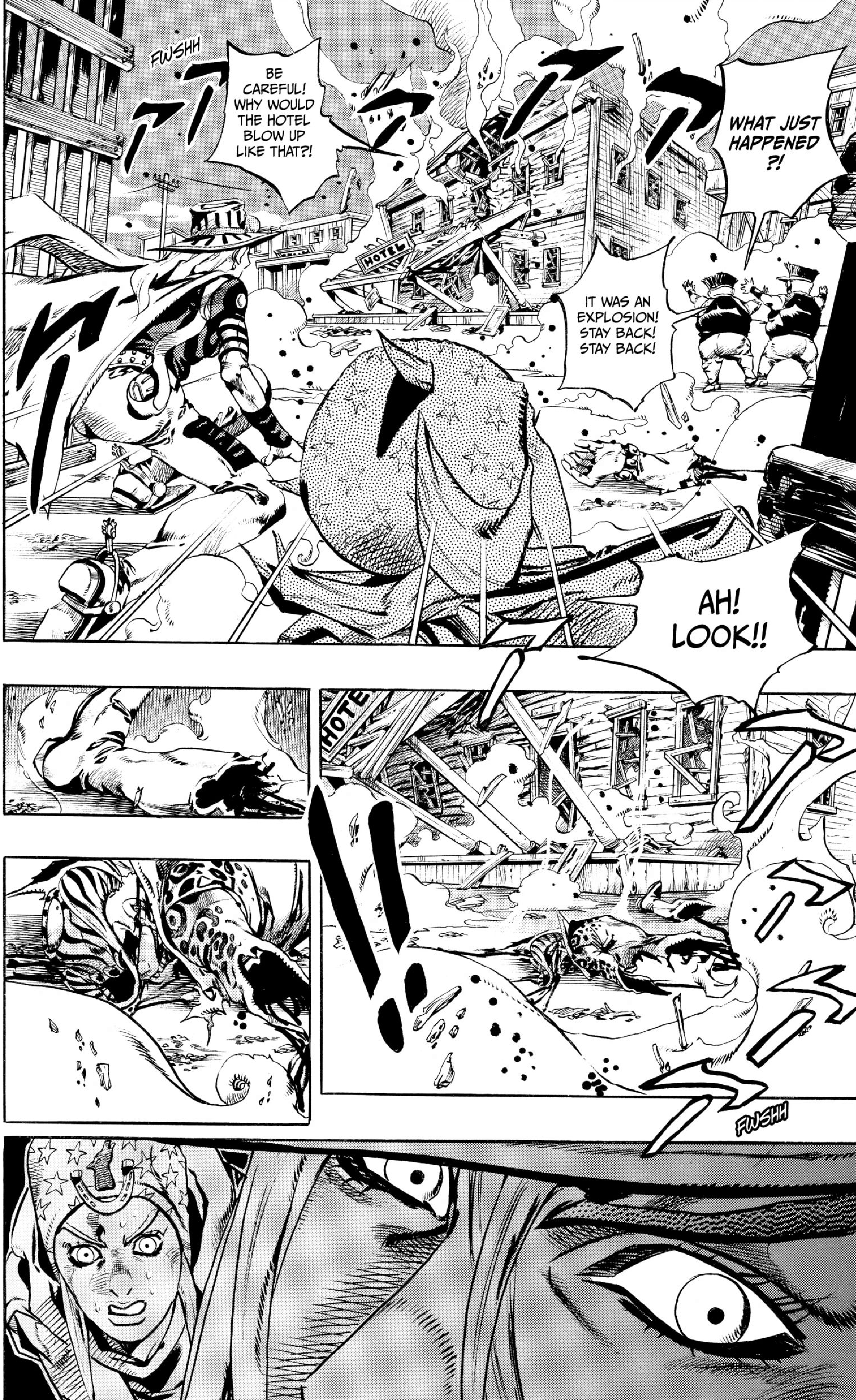
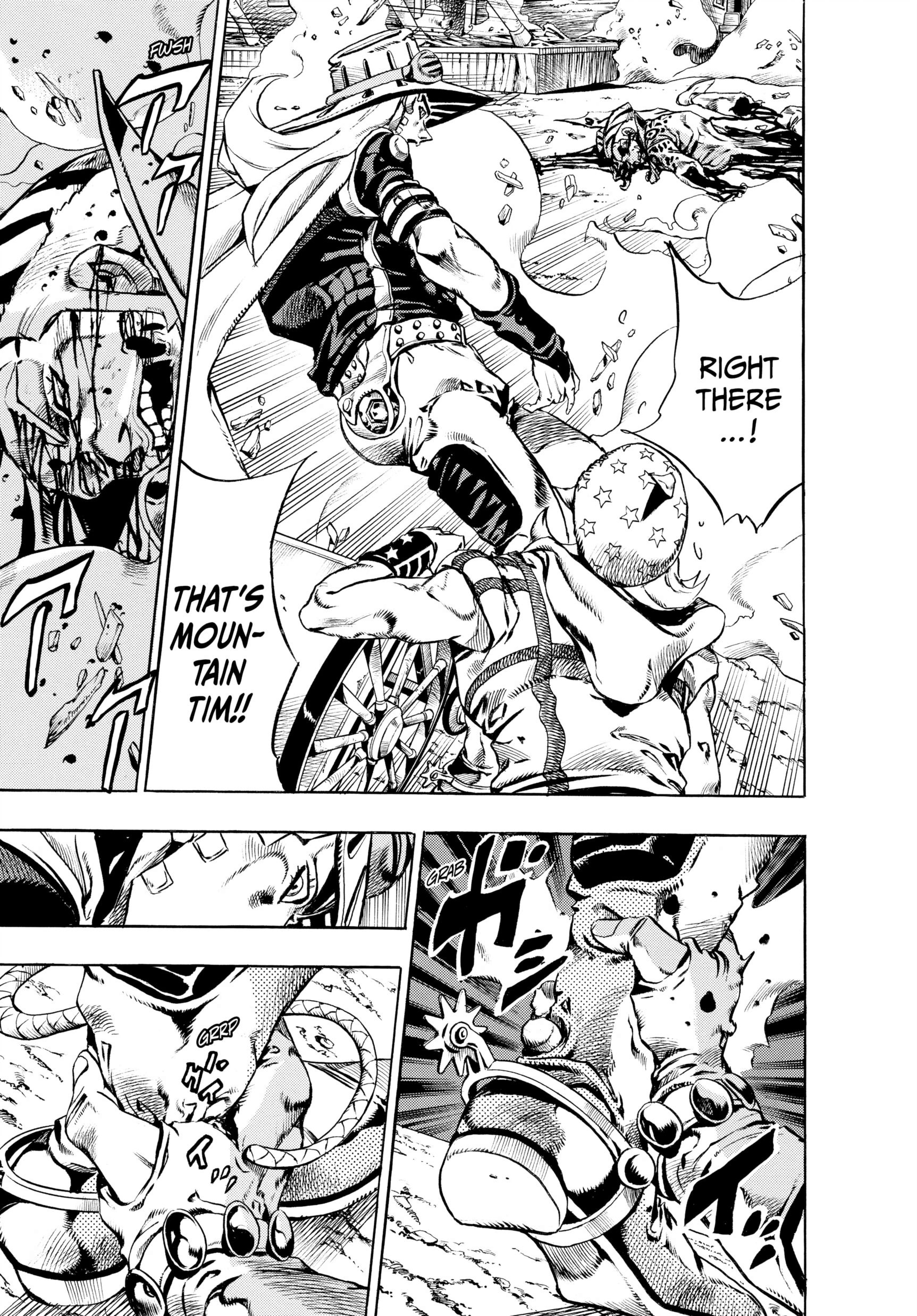
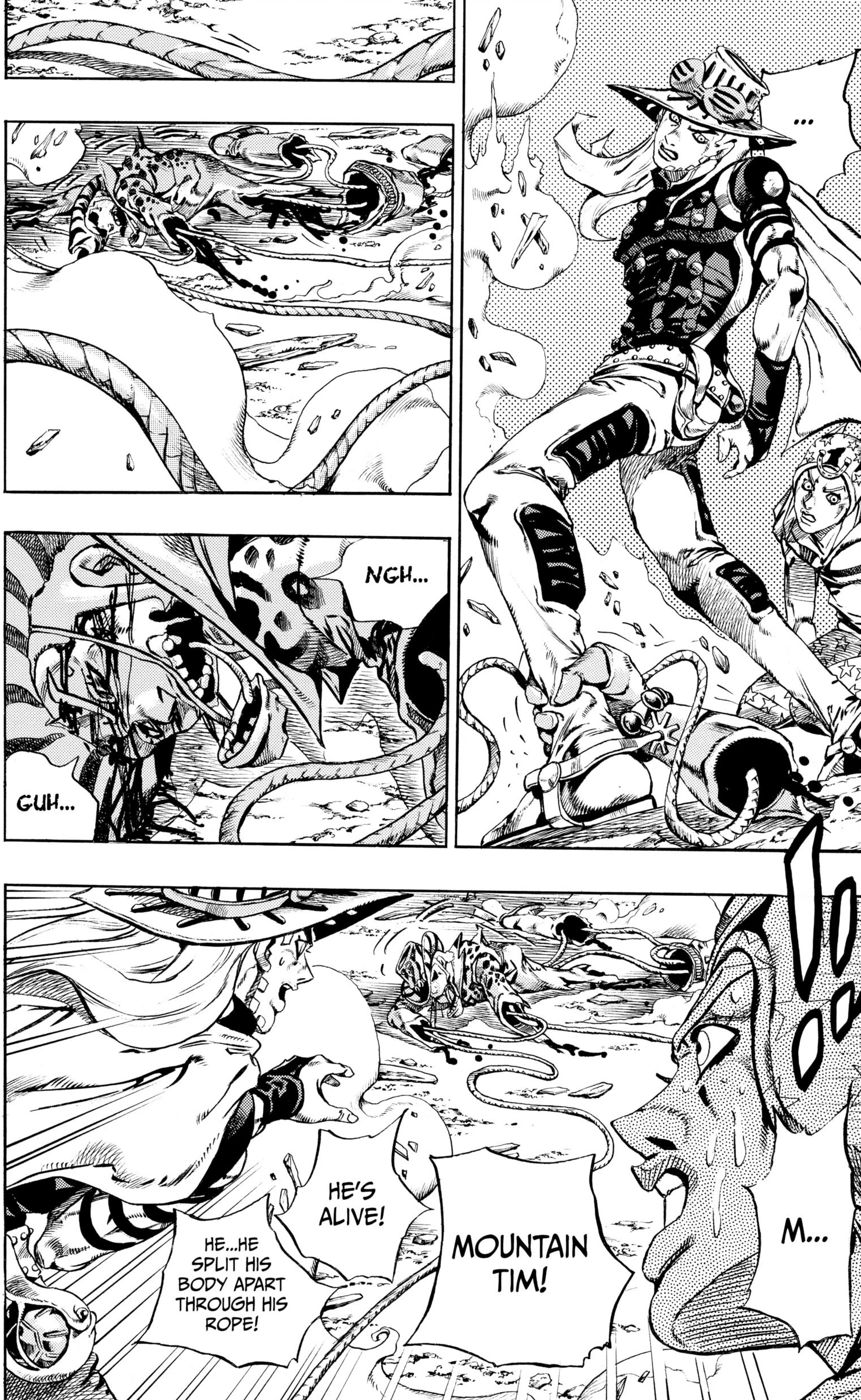
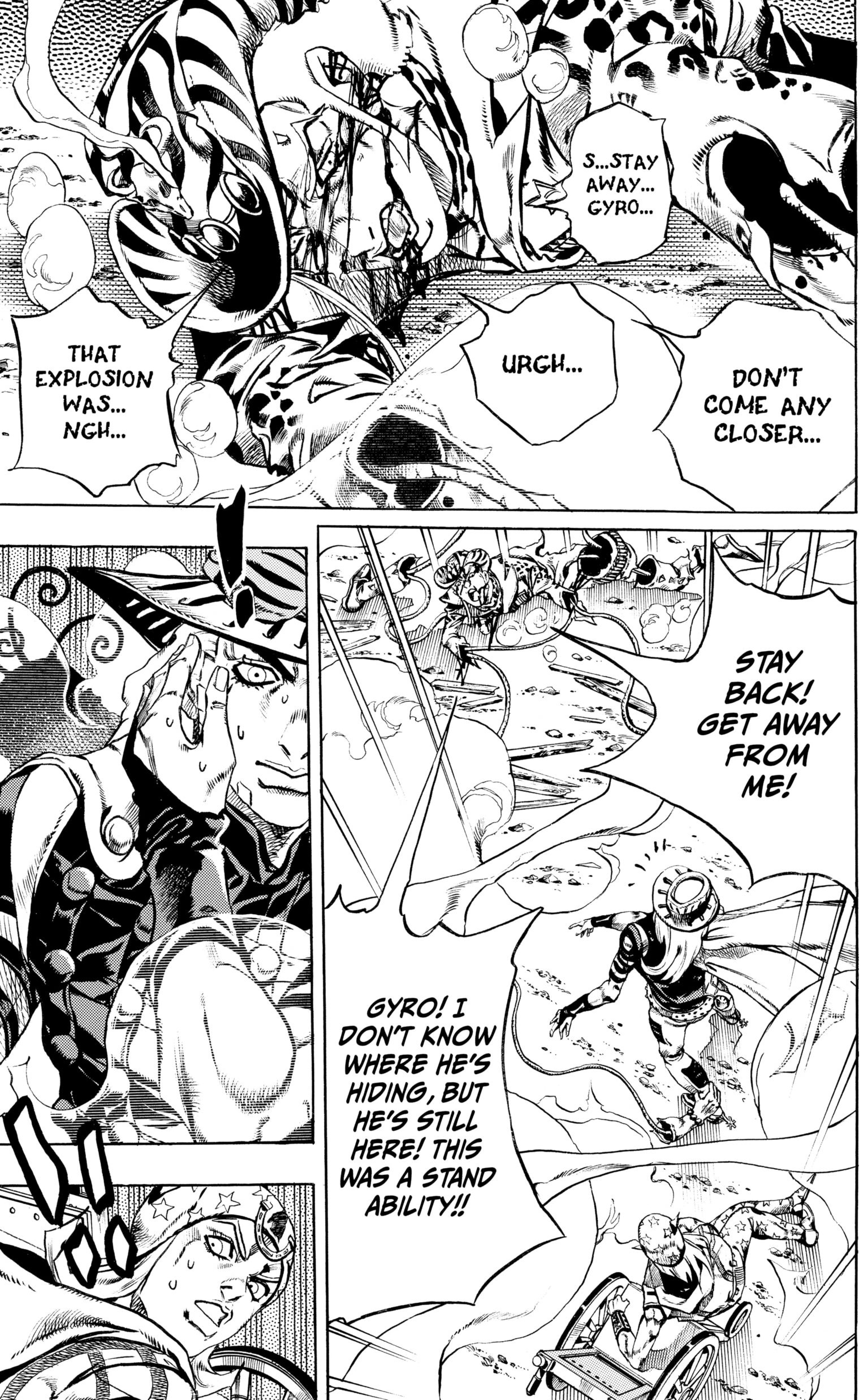
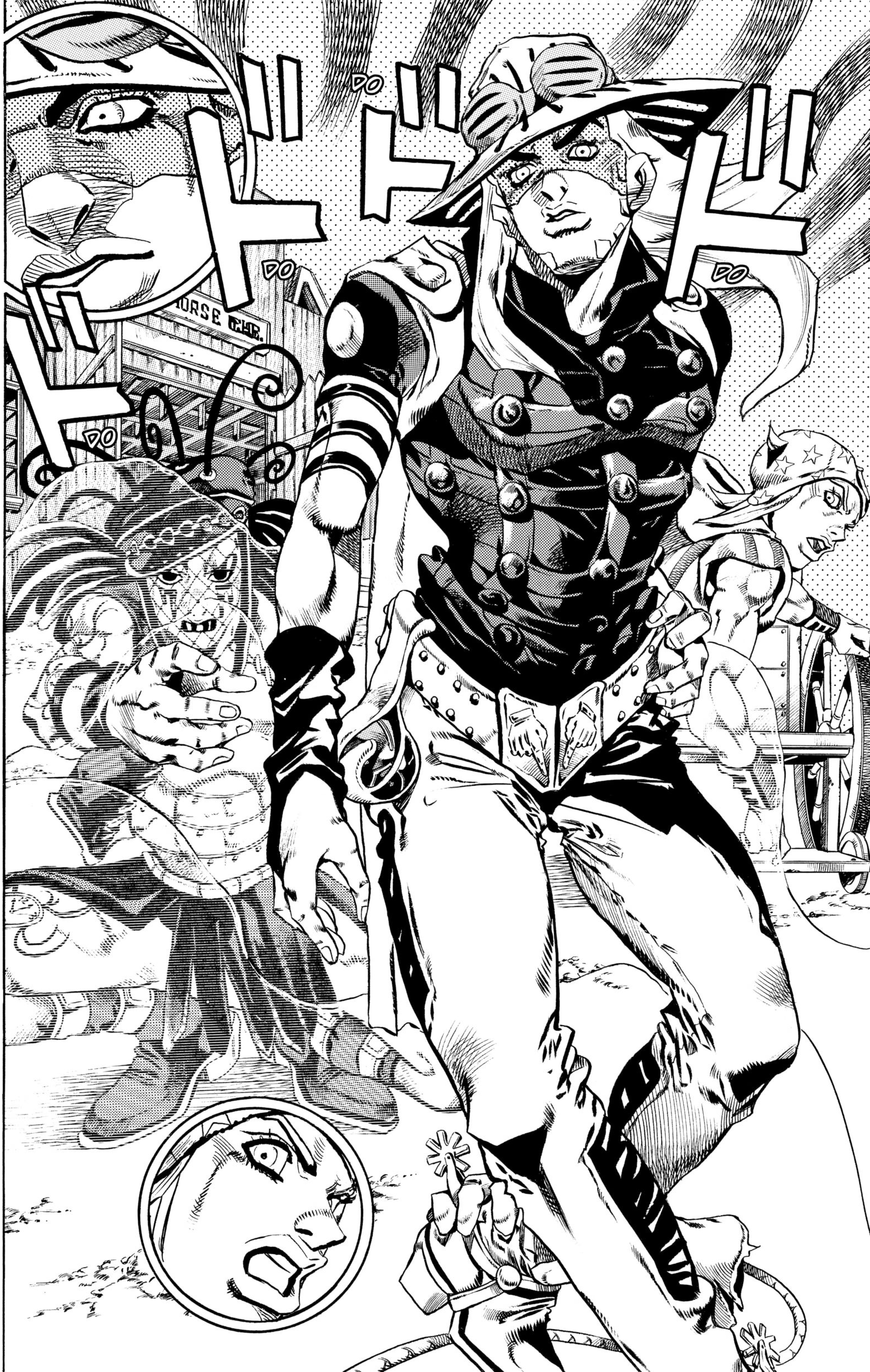
BOOOM
HOTEL
FUSHHH
オ
WHA ...?!
WHAT WAS THAT ?!
FWOOOOSH

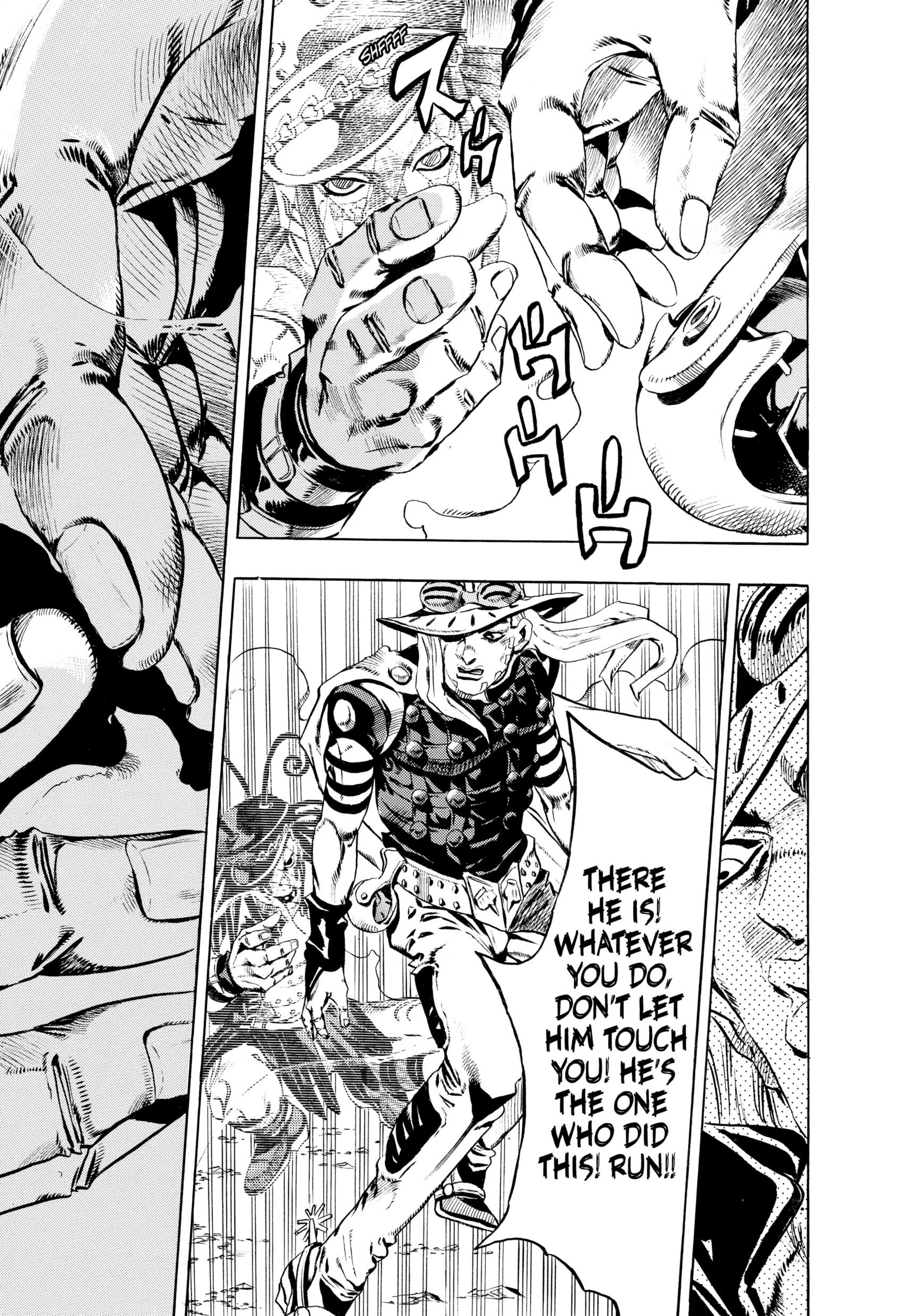

WHAT JUST HAPPENED?!
BE CAREFUL! WHY WOULD THE HOTEL BLOW UP LIKE THAT?!
FWSHH
HOTEL
IT WAS AN EXPLOSION! STAY BACK! STAY BACK!
AH! LOOK!!
HOTE
FWSHH

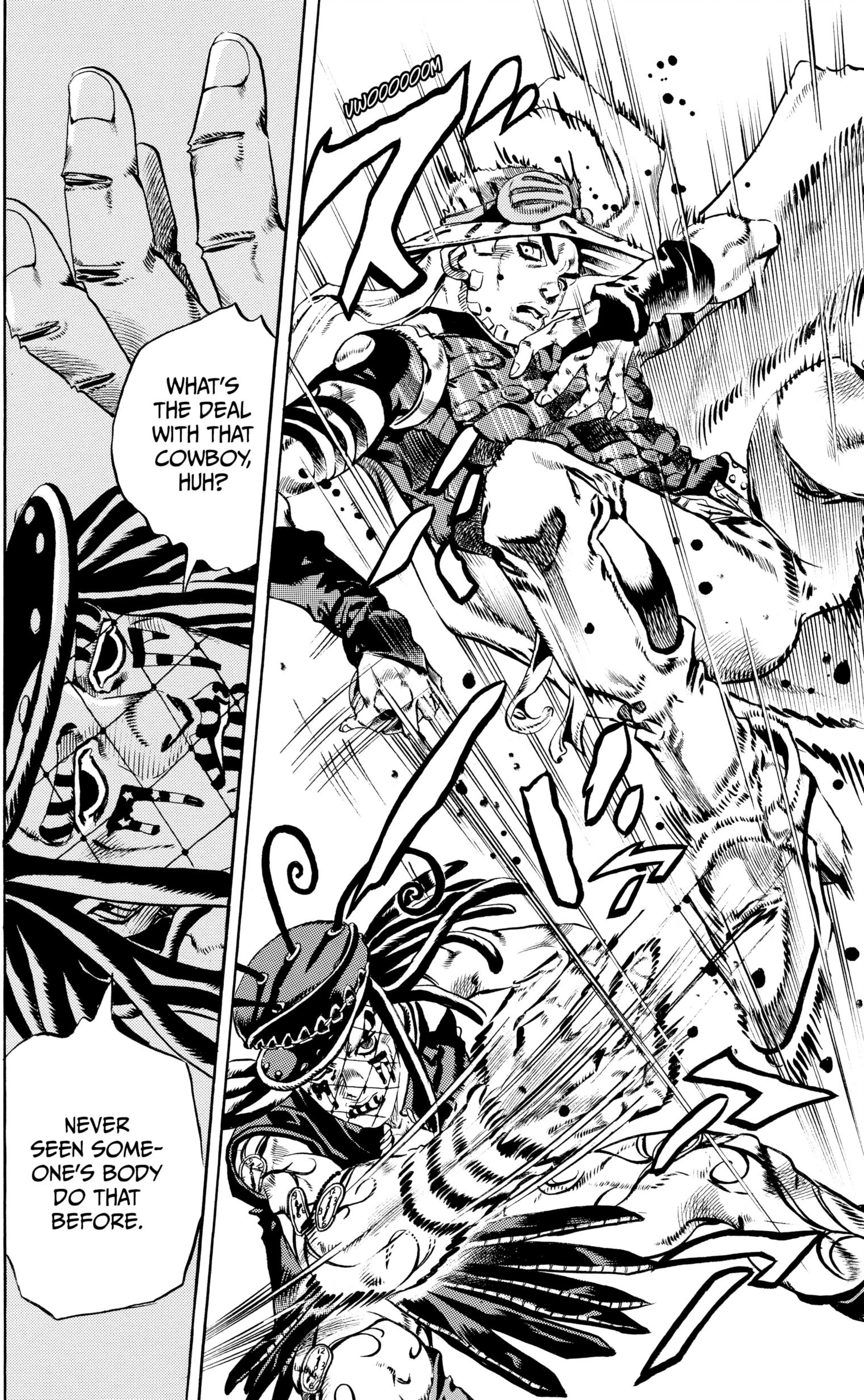

RIGHT THERE ...!
THAT'S MOUNTAIN TIM!!
FWSH
GRAB
GRRP

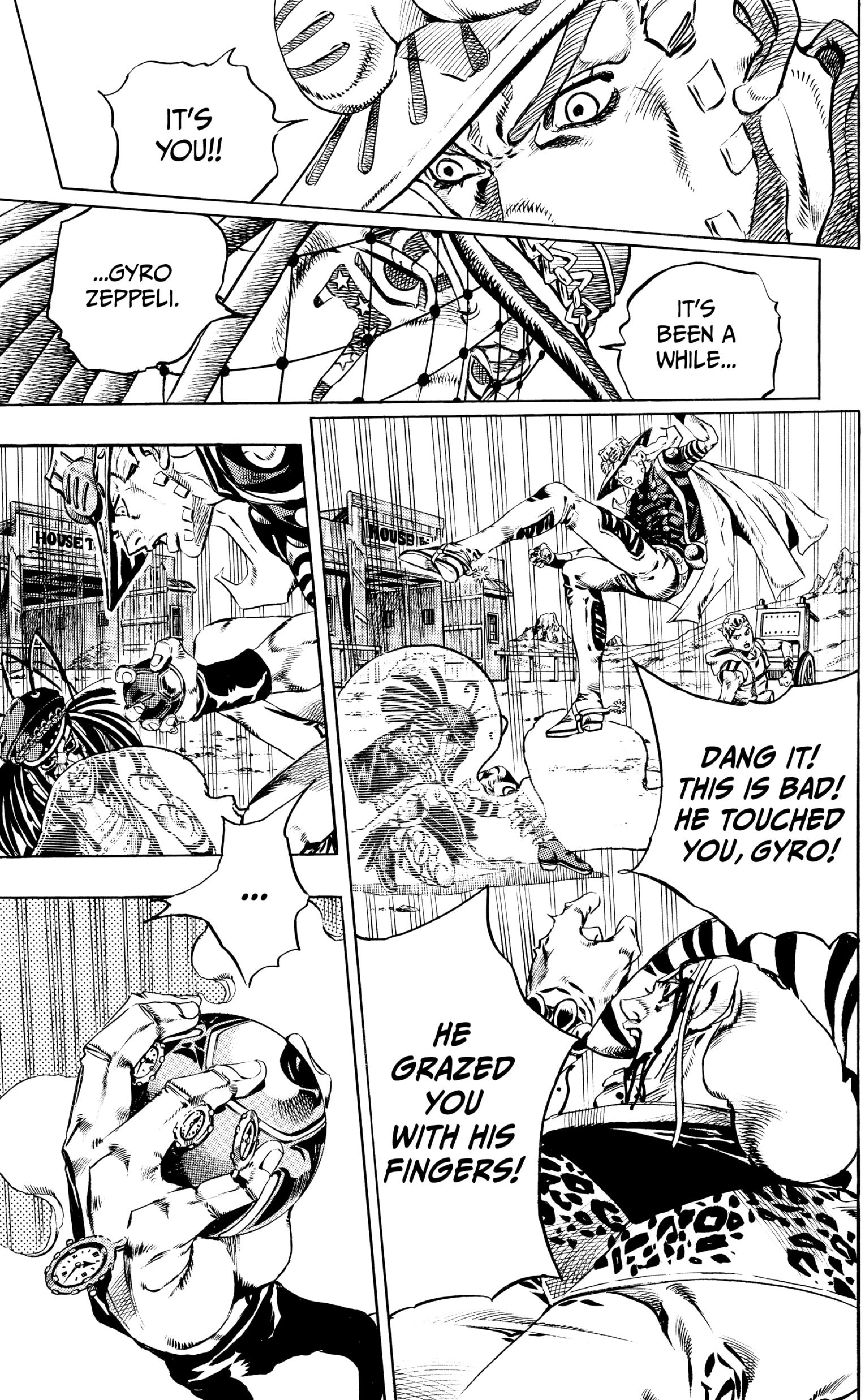

...
NGH...
GUH...
M...
MOUNTAIN TIM!
HE'S ALIVE!
HE...HE SPLIT HIS BODY APART THROUGH HIS ROPE!

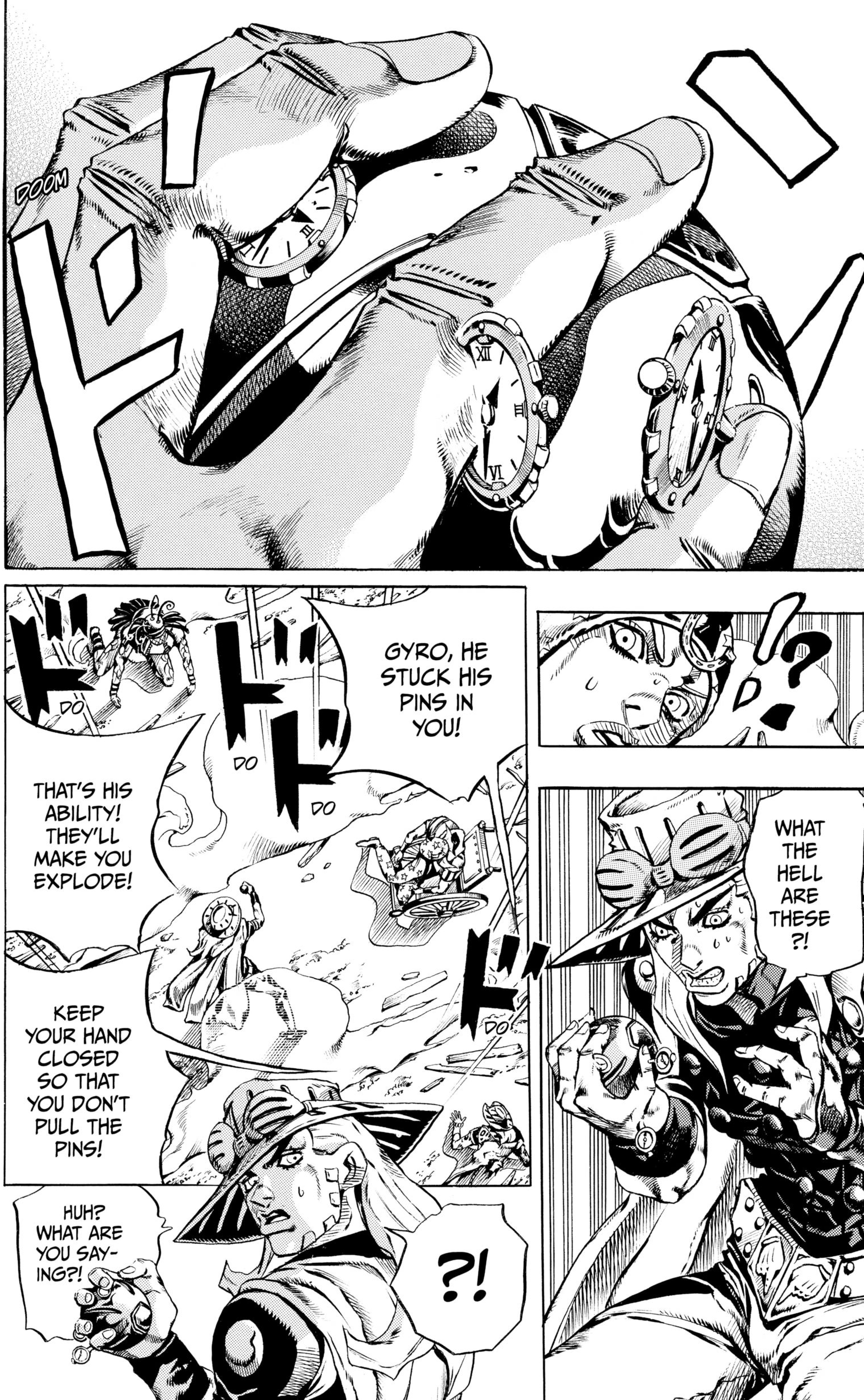

S...STAY AWAY... GYRO...
DON'T COME ANY CLOSER...
URGH...
THAT EXPLOSION WAS... NGH...
STAY BACK! GET AWAY FROM ME!
GYRO! I DON'T KNOW WHERE HE'S HIDING, BUT HE'S STILL HERE! THIS WAS A STAND ABILITY!!

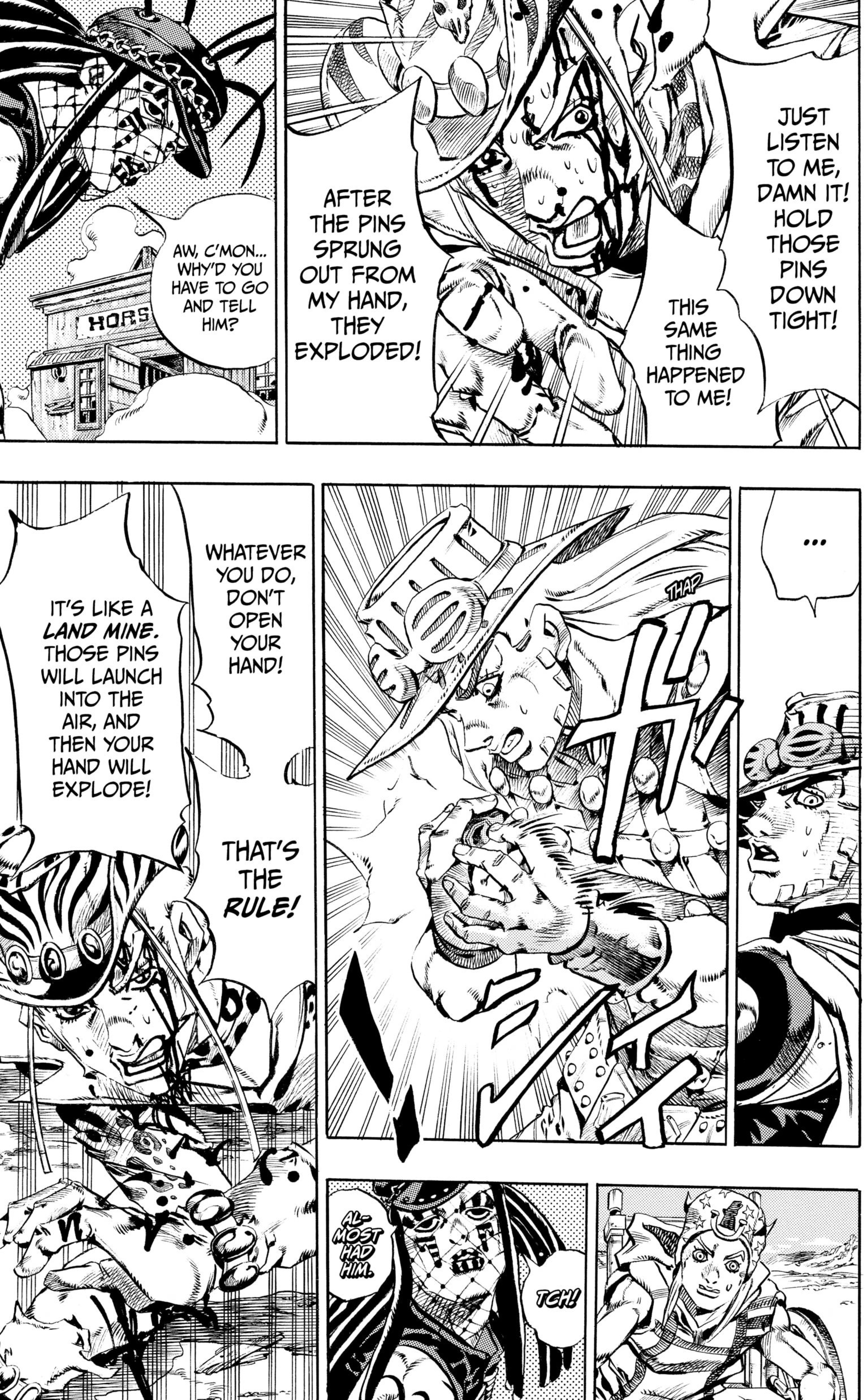

ドドドド
DO
DO
DO
DO
ORSE

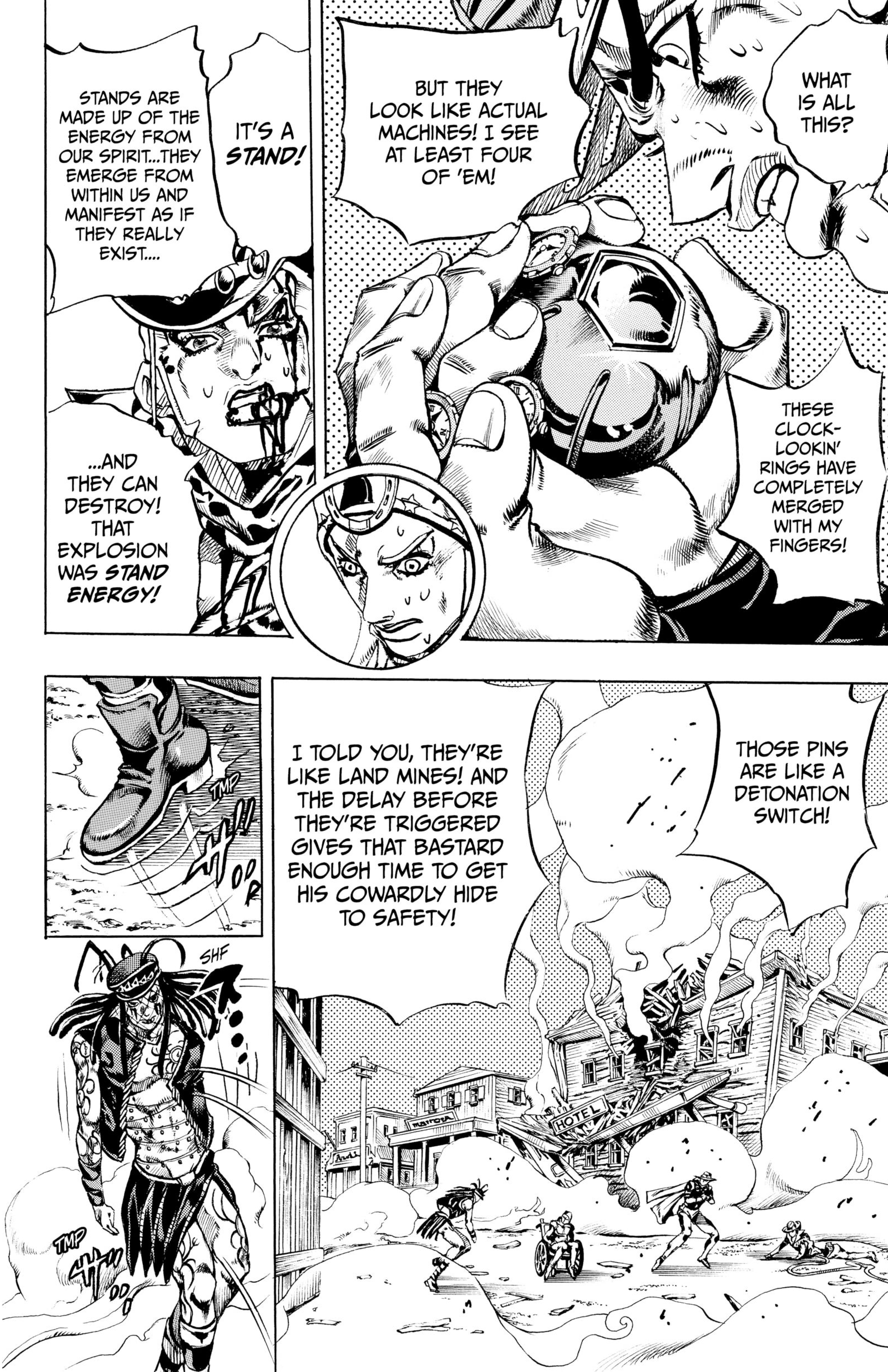

SHFFFF
スッ
THERE HE IS! WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T LET HIM TOUCH YOU! HE'S THE ONE WHO DID THIS! RUN!!

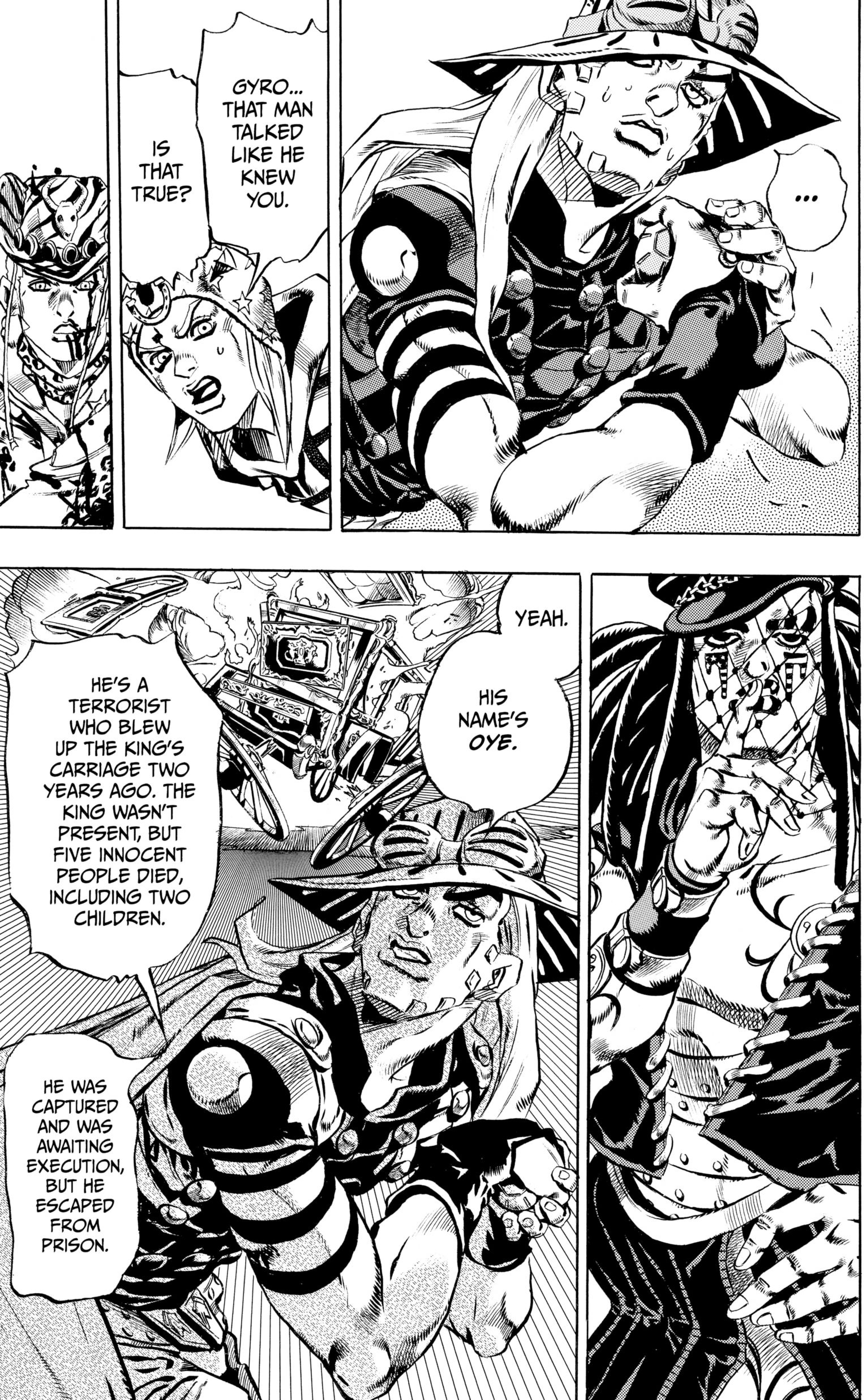

VWOOOOOOM
WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THAT COWBOY, HUH?
NEVER SEEN SOMEONE'S BODY DO THAT BEFORE.

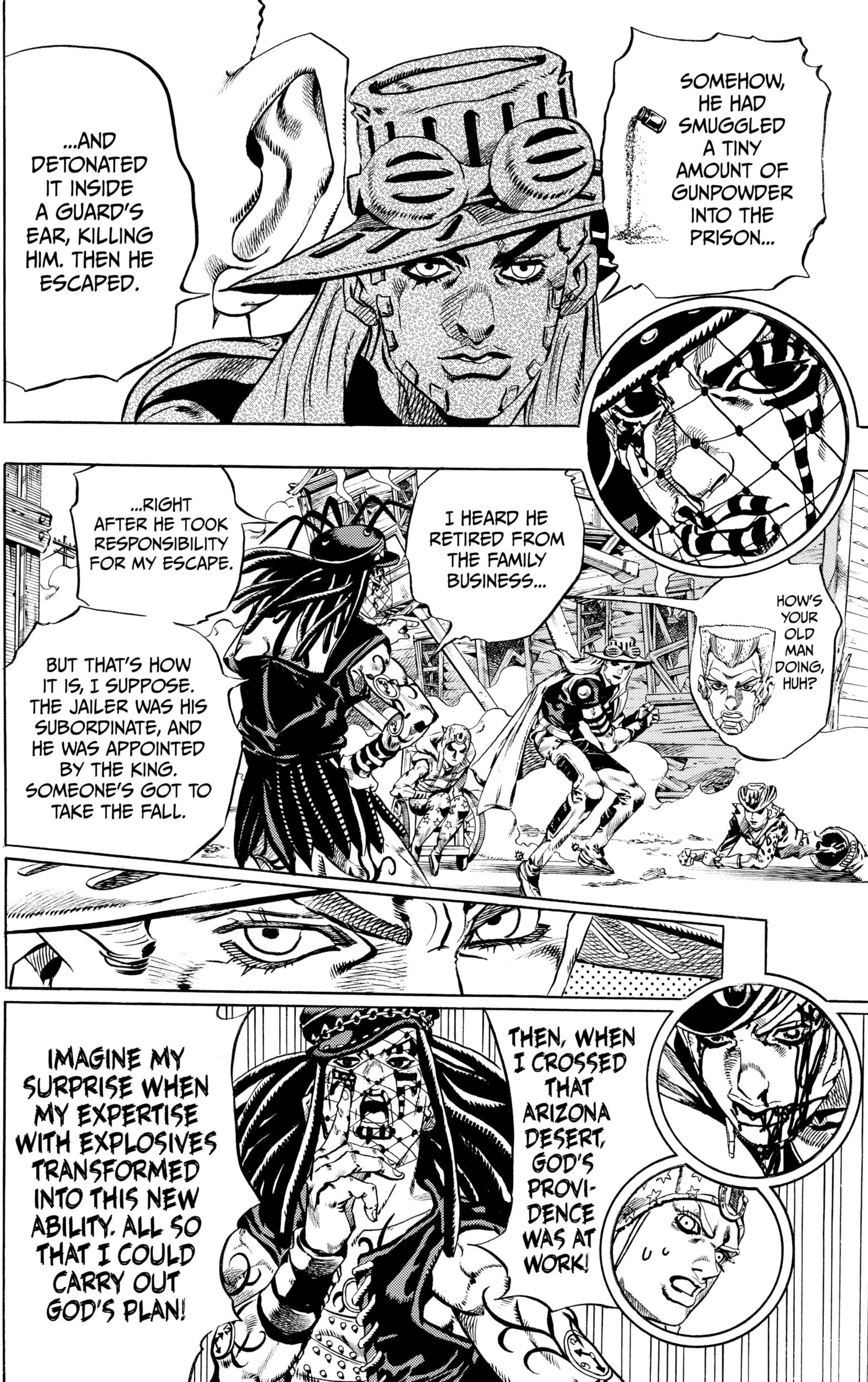

IT'S YOU!!
IT'S BEEN A WHILE...
...GYRO ZEPPELI.
HOUSE
DANG IT! THIS IS BAD! HE TOUCHED YOU, GYRO!
HE GRAZED YOU WITH HIS FINGERS!
...

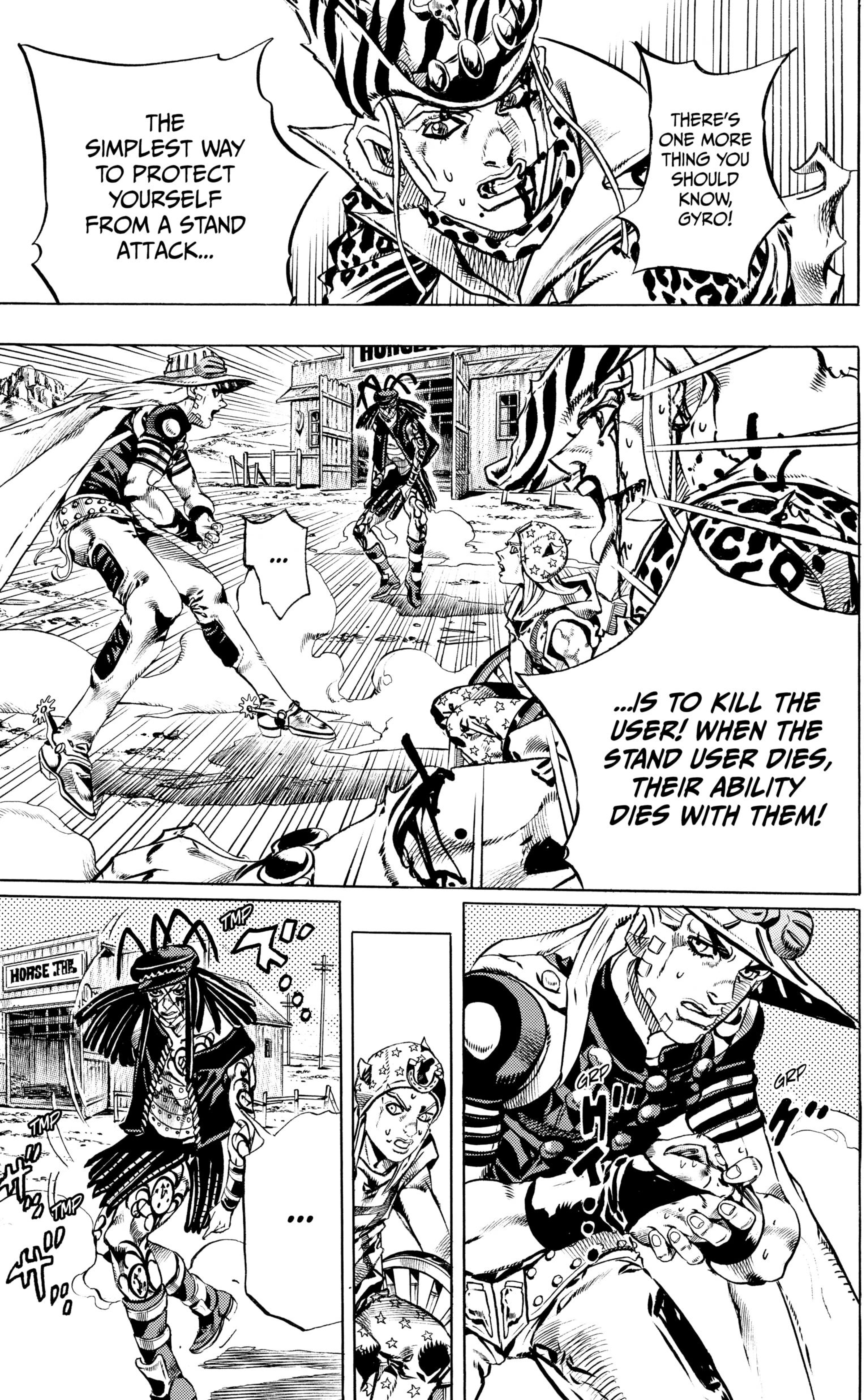

ドーン
DOOM
!?
ドドド
DO
DO
DO
GYRO, HE STUCK HIS PINS IN YOU!
THAT'S HIS ABILITY! THEY'LL MAKE YOU EXPLODE!
KEEP YOUR HAND CLOSED SO THAT YOU DON'T PULL THE PINS!
ド
DO
WHAT THE HELL ARE THESE?!
?!
HUH? WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!

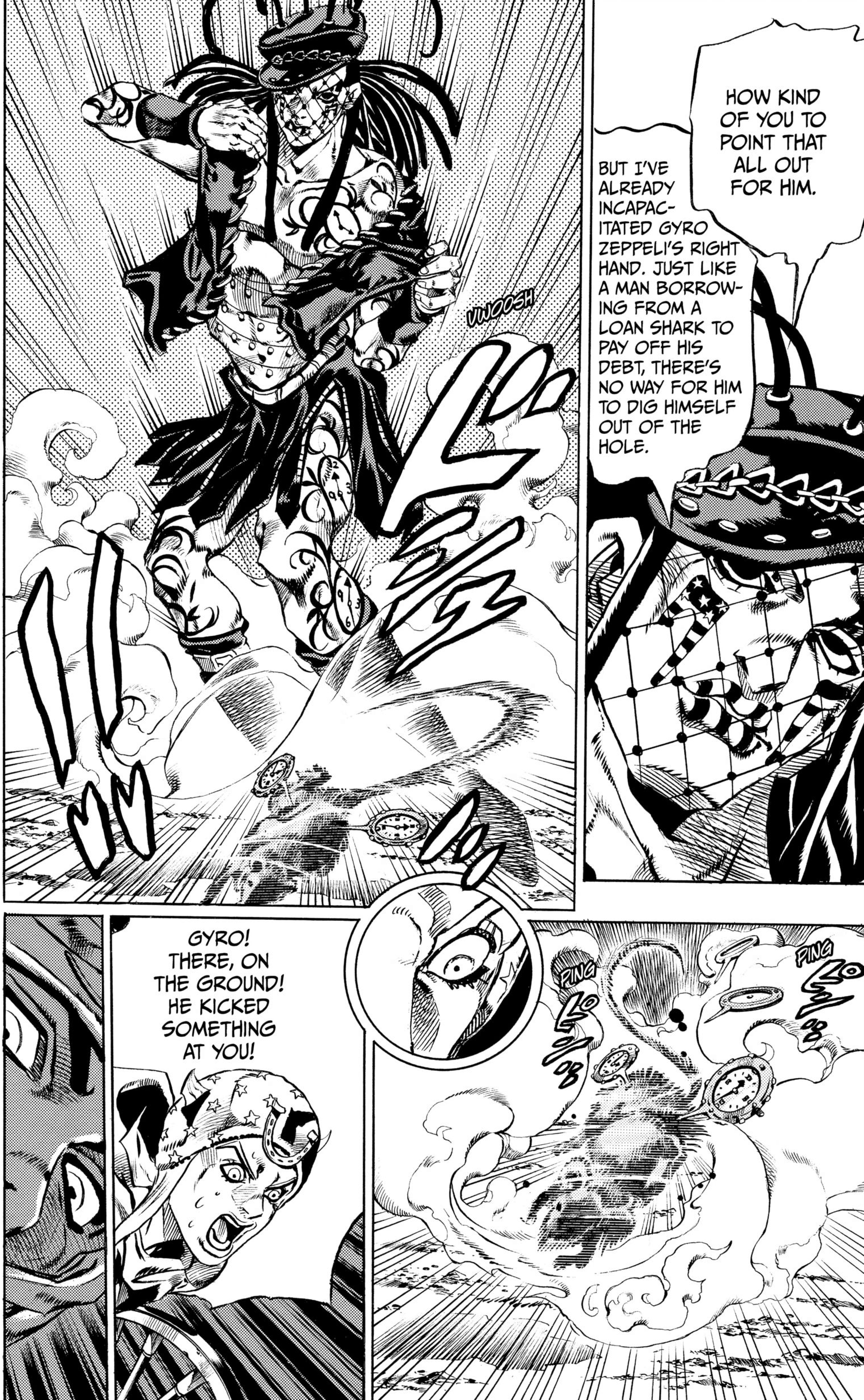

JUST LISTEN TO ME, DAMN IT! HOLD THOSE PINS DOWN TIGHT!
THIS SAME THING HAPPENED TO ME!
AFTER THE PINS SPRUNG OUT FROM MY HAND, THEY EXPLODED!
AW, C'MON... WHY'D YOU HAVE TO GO AND TELL HIM?
HORS
...
THAP
ガシィ
WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T OPEN YOUR HAND!
IT'S LIKE A *LAND MINE.* THOSE PINS WILL LAUNCH INTO THE AIR, AND THEN YOUR HAND WILL EXPLODE!
THAT'S THE *RULE!*
TCH!
ALMOST HAD HIM.

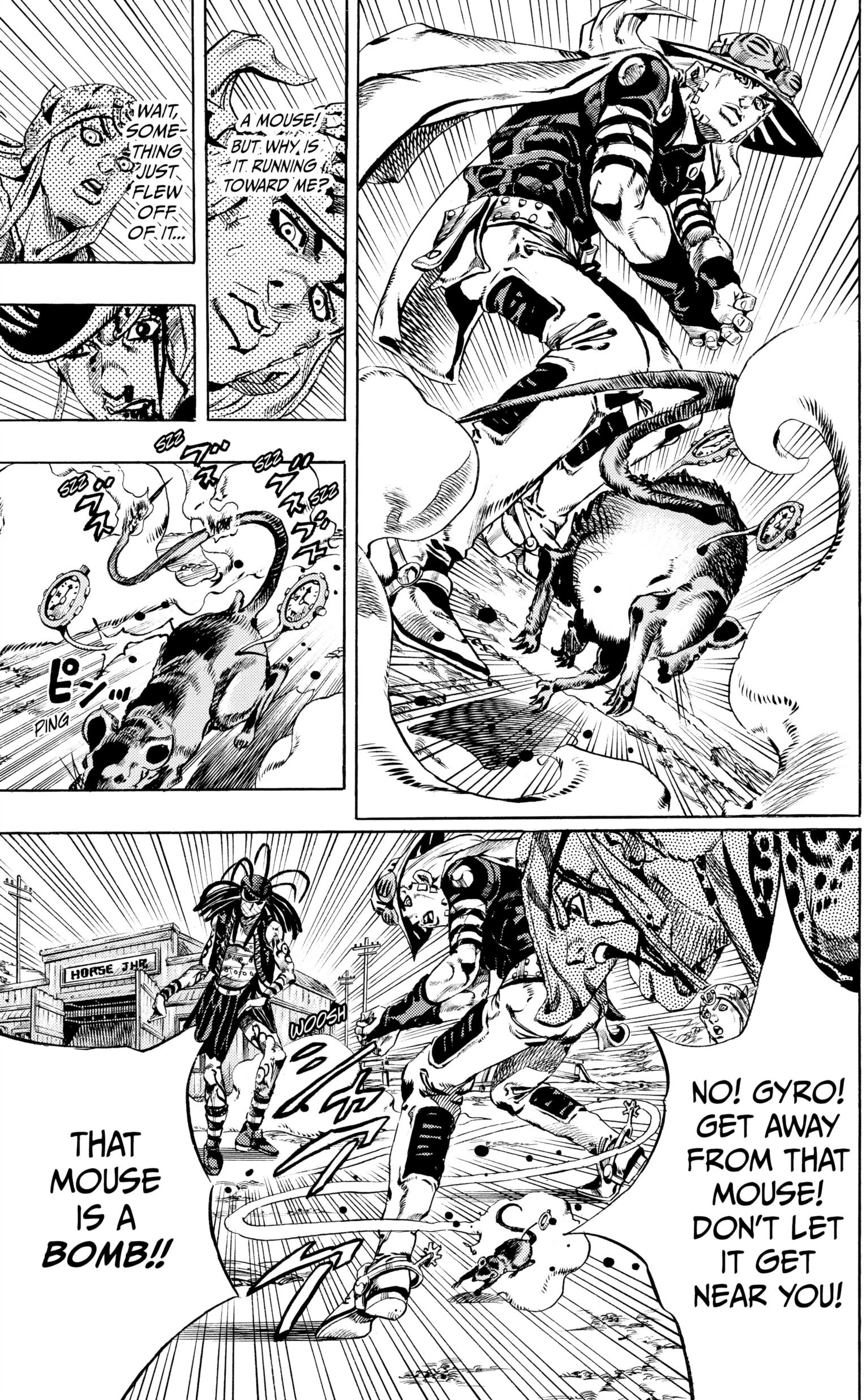

WHAT IS ALL THIS?
BUT THEY LOOK LIKE ACTUAL MACHINES! I SEE AT LEAST FOUR OF 'EM!
THESE CLOCK-LOOKIN' RINGS HAVE COMPLETELY MERGED WITH MY FINGERS!
IT'S A *STAND!*
STANDS ARE MADE UP OF THE ENERGY FROM OUR SPIRIT...THEY EMERGE FROM WITHIN US AND MANIFEST AS IF THEY REALLY EXIST....
...AND THEY CAN DESTROY! THAT EXPLOSION WAS *STAND ENERGY!*
THOSE PINS ARE LIKE A DETONATION SWITCH!
I TOLD YOU, THEY'RE LIKE LAND MINES! AND THE DELAY BEFORE THEY'RE TRIGGERED GIVES THAT BASTARD ENOUGH TIME TO GET HIS COWARDLY HIDE TO SAFETY!
TMP
SHF
TMP
HOTEL


...
GYRO... THAT MAN TALKED LIKE HE KNEW YOU.
IS THAT TRUE?
YEAH.
HIS NAME'S *OYE.*
HE'S A TERRORIST WHO BLEW UP THE KING'S CARRIAGE TWO YEARS AGO. THE KING WASN'T PRESENT, BUT FIVE INNOCENT PEOPLE DIED, INCLUDING TWO CHILDREN.
HE WAS CAPTURED AND WAS AWAITING EXECUTION, BUT HE ESCAPED FROM PRISON.

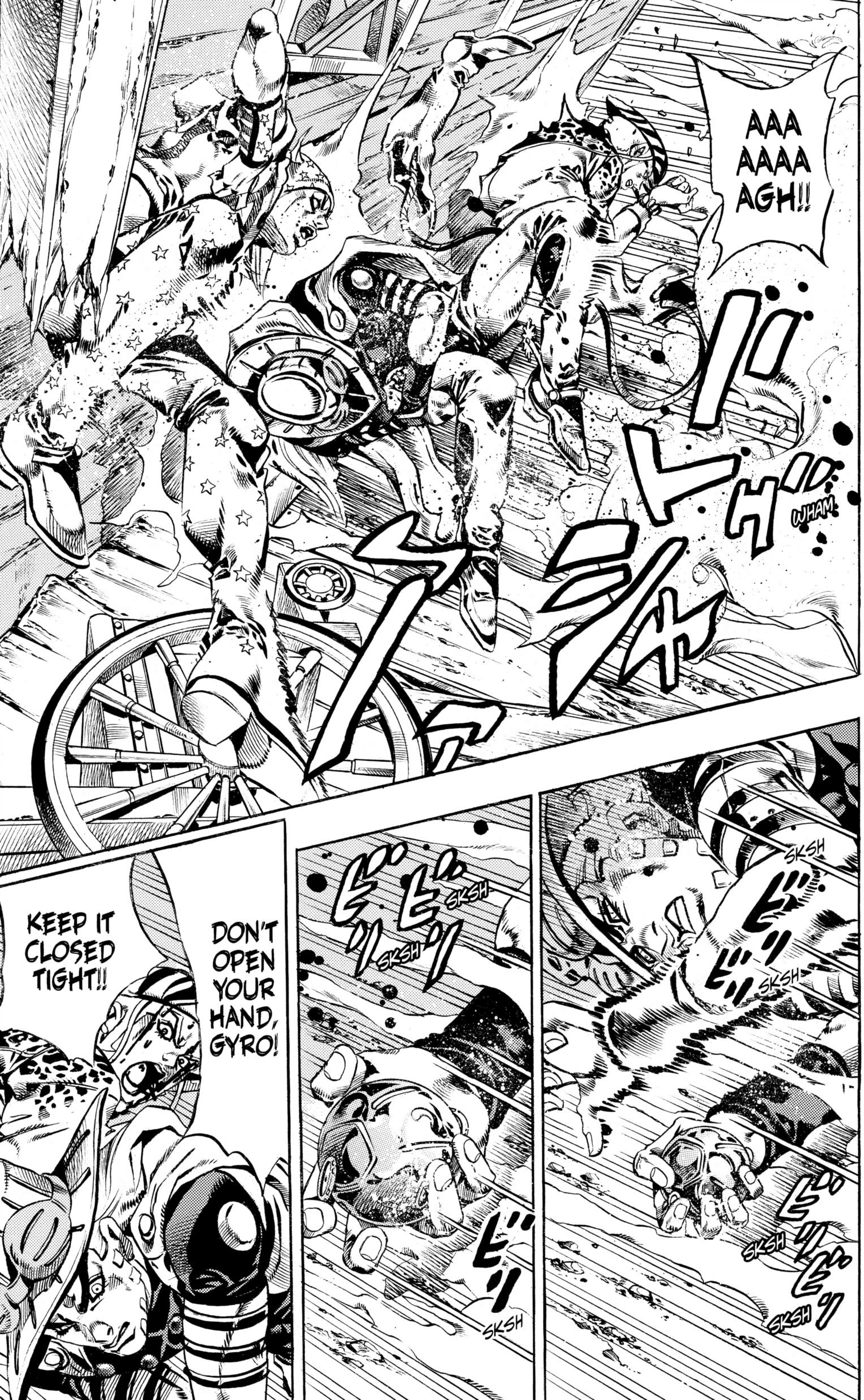

SOMEHOW, HE HAD SMUGGLED A TINY AMOUNT OF GUNPOWDER INTO THE PRISON...
...AND DETONATED IT INSIDE A GUARD'S EAR, KILLING HIM. THEN HE ESCAPED.
HOW'S YOUR OLD MAN DOING, HUH?
I HEARD HE RETIRED FROM THE FAMILY BUSINESS...
...RIGHT AFTER HE TOOK RESPONSIBILITY FOR MY ESCAPE.
BUT THAT'S HOW IT IS, I SUPPOSE. THE JAILER WAS HIS SUBORDINATE, AND HE WAS APPOINTED BY THE KING. SOMEONE'S GOT TO TAKE THE FALL.
THEN, WHEN I CROSSED THAT ARIZONA DESERT, GOD'S PROVIDENCE WAS AT WORK!
IMAGINE MY SURPRISE WHEN MY EXPERTISE WITH EXPLOSIVES TRANSFORMED INTO THIS NEW ABILITY. ALL SO THAT I COULD CARRY OUT GOD'S PLAN!

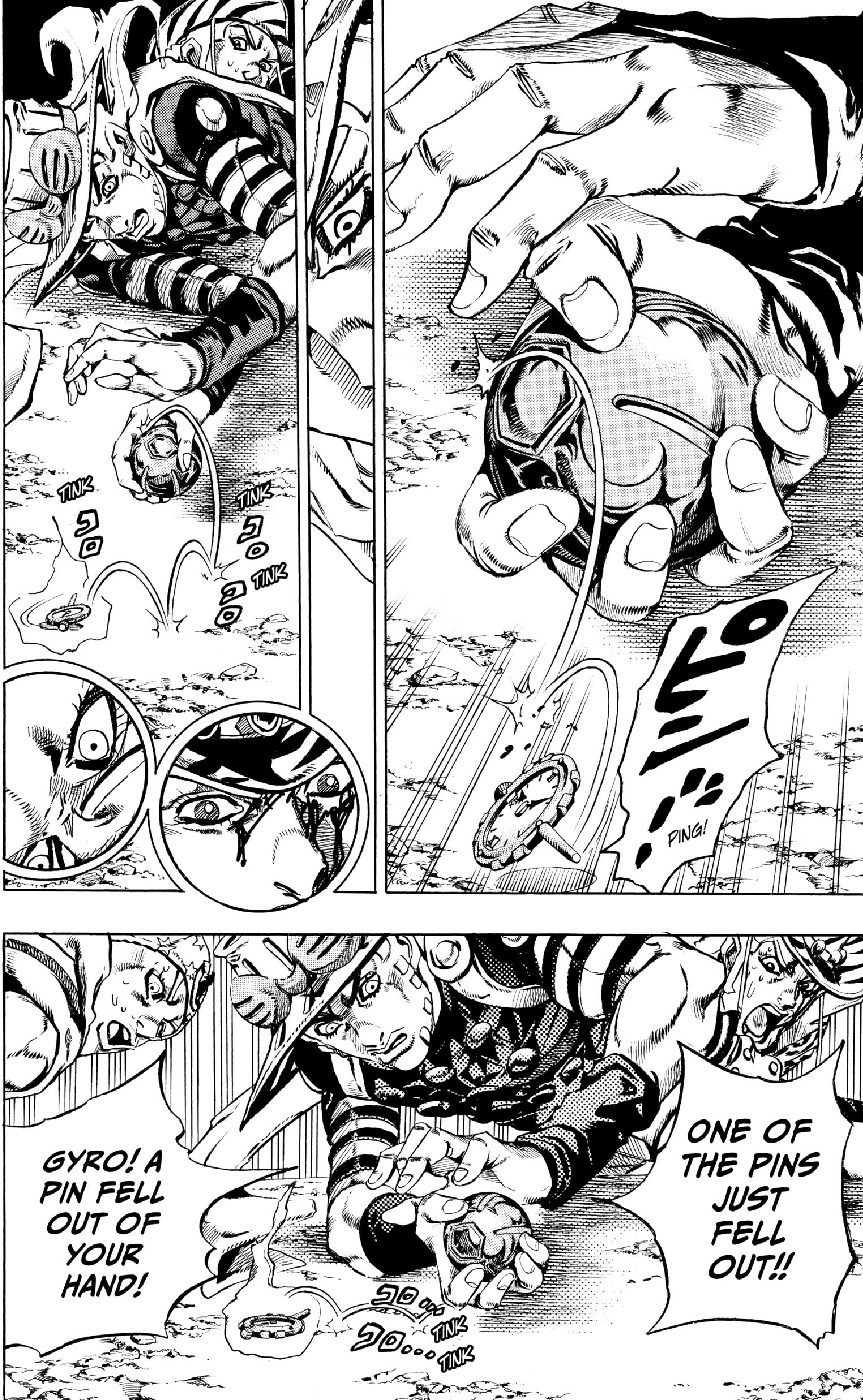

THERE'S ONE MORE THING YOU SHOULD KNOW, GYRO!
THE SIMPLEST WAY TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM A STAND ATTACK...
HORSE
...
...IS TO KILL THE USER! WHEN THE STAND USER DIES, THEIR ABILITY DIES WITH THEM!
GRP
GRP
...
HORSE THE
TMP
TMP
TMP

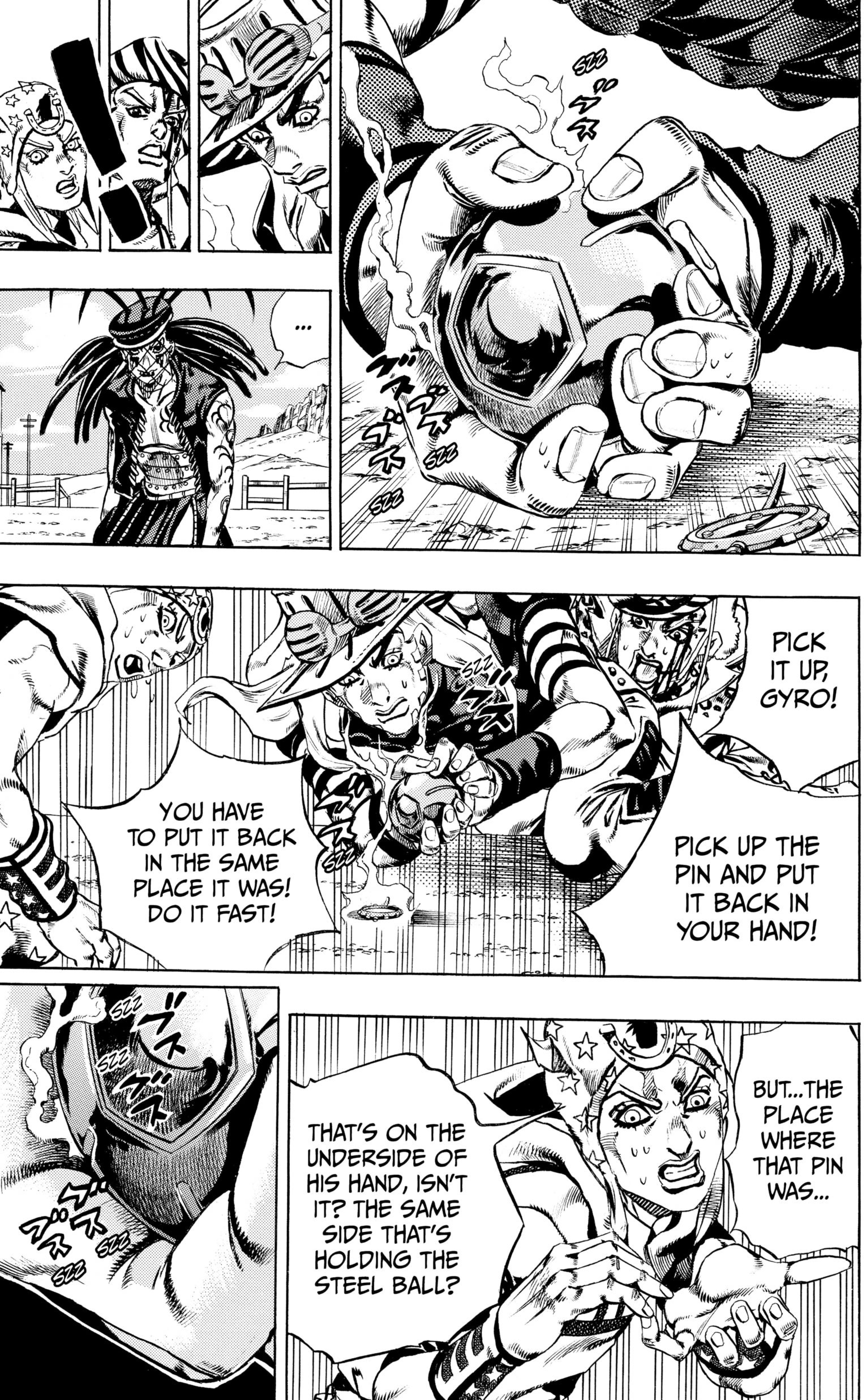

HOW KIND OF YOU TO POINT THAT ALL OUT FOR HIM.
BUT I'VE ALREADY INCAPACITATED GYRO ZEPPELI'S RIGHT HAND. JUST LIKE A MAN BORROWING FROM A LOAN SHARK TO PAY OFF HIS DEBT, THERE'S NO WAY FOR HIM TO DIG HIMSELF OUT OF THE HOLE.
UWOOSH
PING
PING
GYRO! THERE, ON THE GROUND! HE KICKED SOMETHING AT YOU!

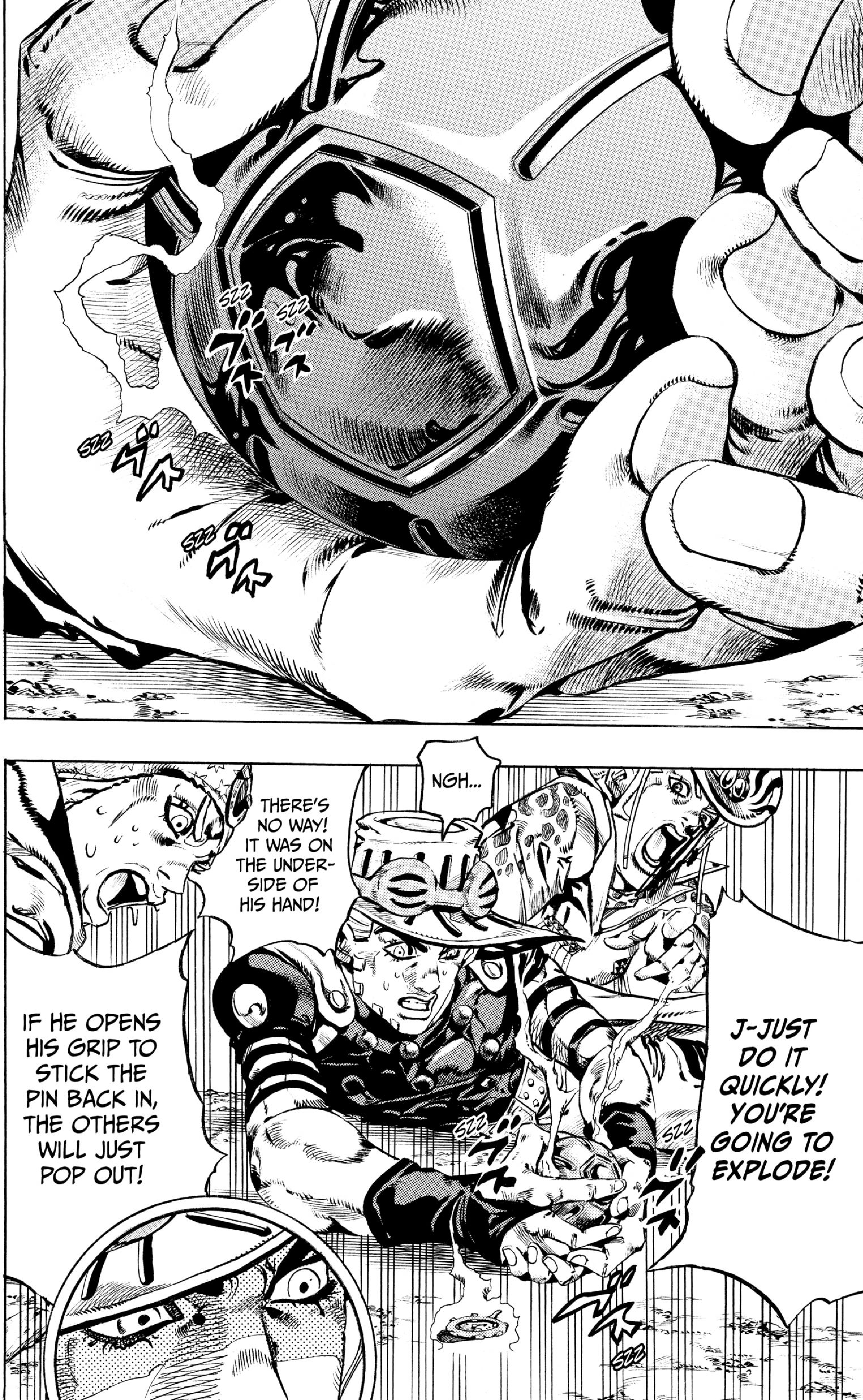

A MOUSE! BUT WHY IS IT RUNNING TOWARD ME?
WAIT, SOMETHING JUST FLEW OFF OF IT...
SZZ
SZZ
SZZ
SZZ
ピンッ
PING
NO! GYRO! GET AWAY FROM THAT MOUSE! DON'T LET IT GET NEAR YOU!
THAT MOUSE IS A BOMB!!
WOOSH
HORSE JHR

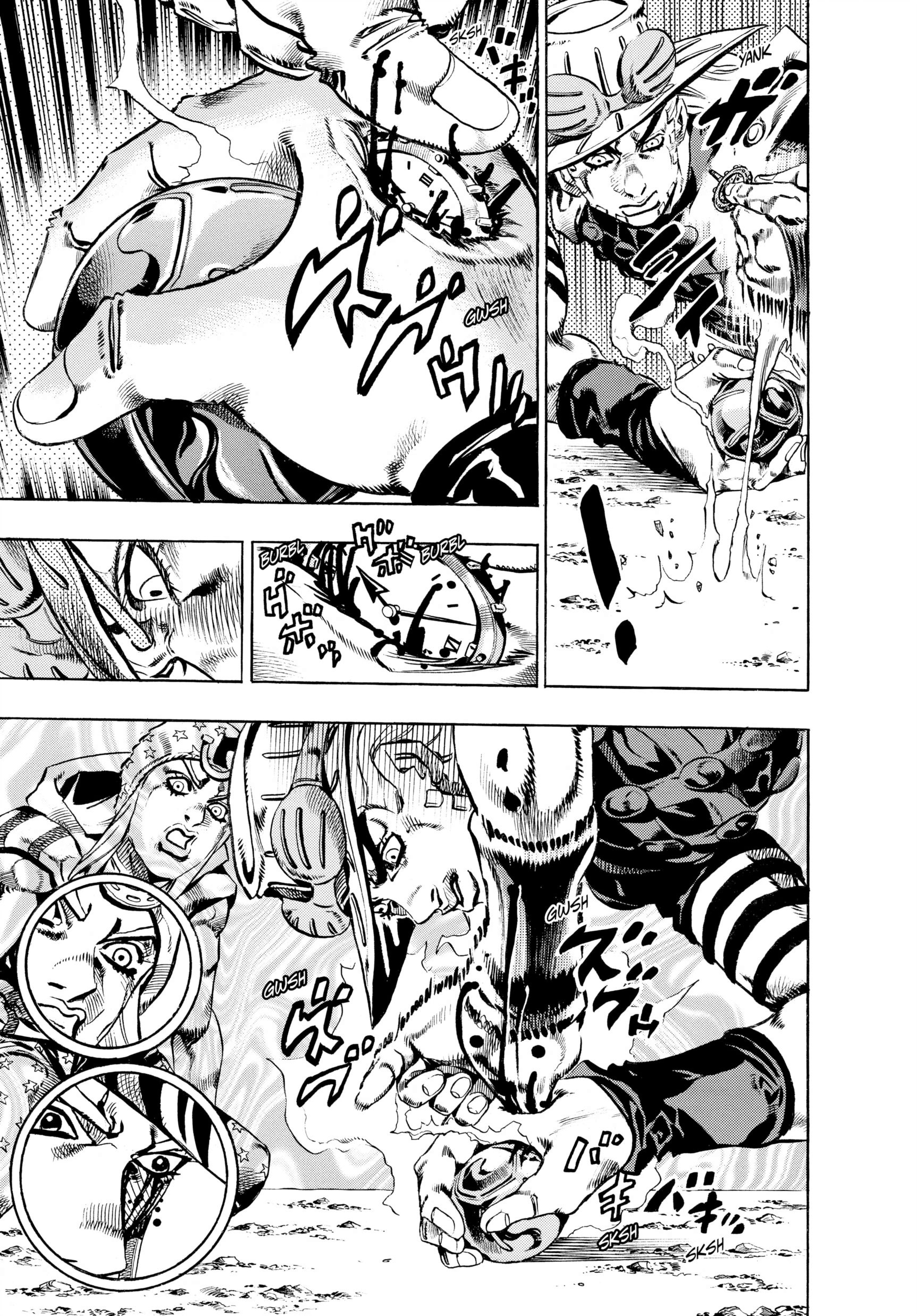
!!
WSSSH
シャァー…
FWSH
ボ!!
BOOOM
WSH
ビュン
WSH
ビュン
WSH
ビュン
WSH


AAA AAAA AGH!!
ドシャア
WHAM
SKSH
SKSH
SKSH
SKSH
SKSH
SKSH
SKSH
DON'T OPEN YOUR HAND, GYRO!
KEEP IT CLOSED TIGHT!!


ピシーッ
PING!
TINK
コロ
TINK
コロ
TINK
コロ
ONE OF THE PINS JUST FELL OUT!!
GYRO! A PIN FELL OUT OF YOUR HAND!
コロ…
TINK
コロ…
TINK


SZZ
SZZ
SZZ
...
PICK IT UP, GYRO!
PICK UP THE PIN AND PUT IT BACK IN YOUR HAND!
SZZ
SZZ
YOU HAVE TO PUT IT BACK IN THE SAME PLACE IT WAS! DO IT FAST!
BUT...THE PLACE WHERE THAT PIN WAS...
THAT'S ON THE UNDERSIDE OF HIS HAND, ISN'T IT? THE SAME SIDE THAT'S HOLDING THE STEEL BALL?
SZZ
SZZ
SZZ
SZZ


SZZ
SZZ
SZZ
SZZ
NGH...
J-JUST DO IT QUICKLY! YOU'RE GOING TO EXPLODE!
THERE'S NO WAY! IT WAS ON THE UNDERSIDE OF HIS HAND!
IF HE OPENS HIS GRIP TO STICK THE PIN BACK IN, THE OTHERS WILL JUST POP OUT!
SZZ
SZZ
SZZ


YANK
ガッ
シィィ
!
SKSH
バキッ
GWSH
ズプゥ
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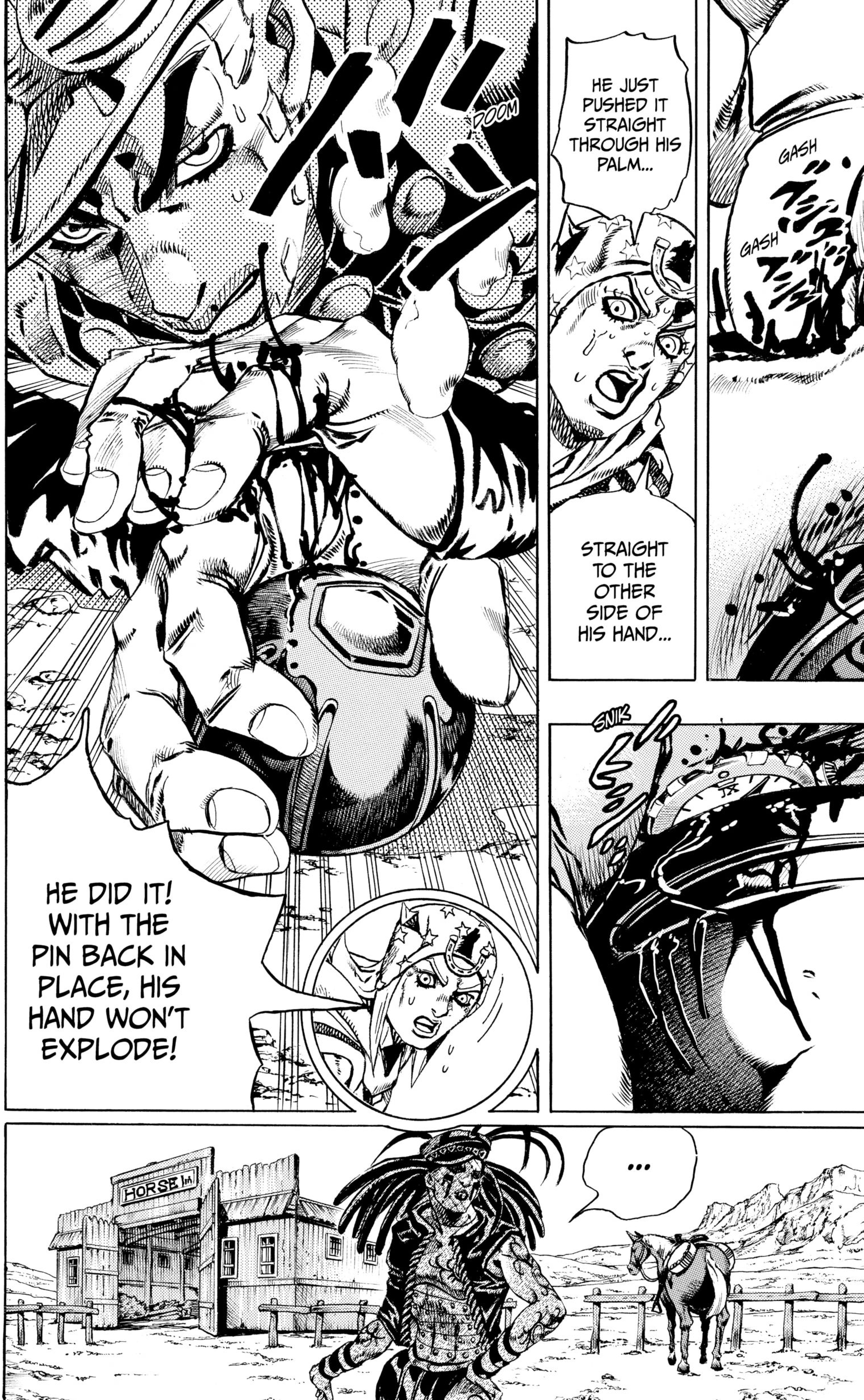
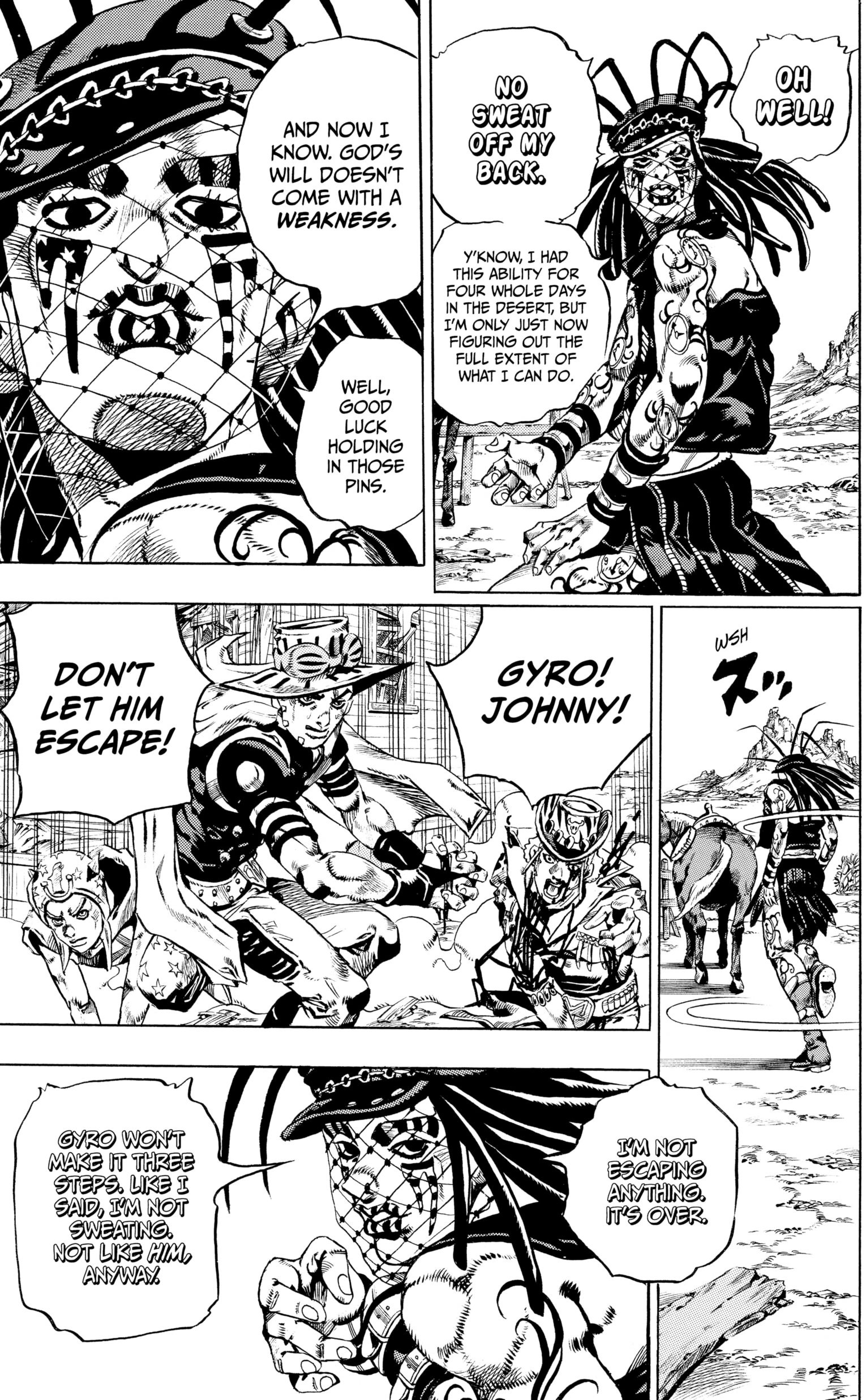
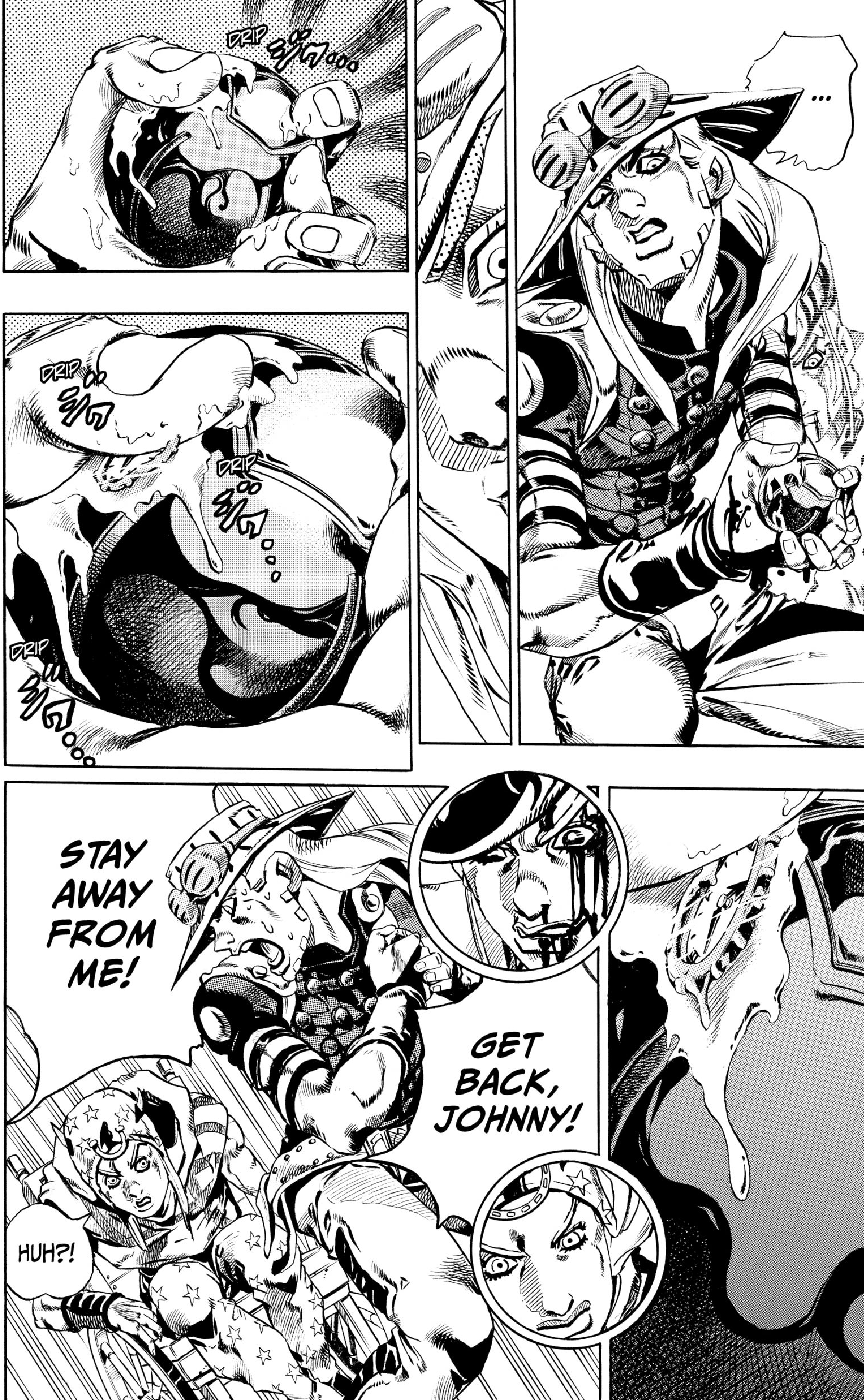
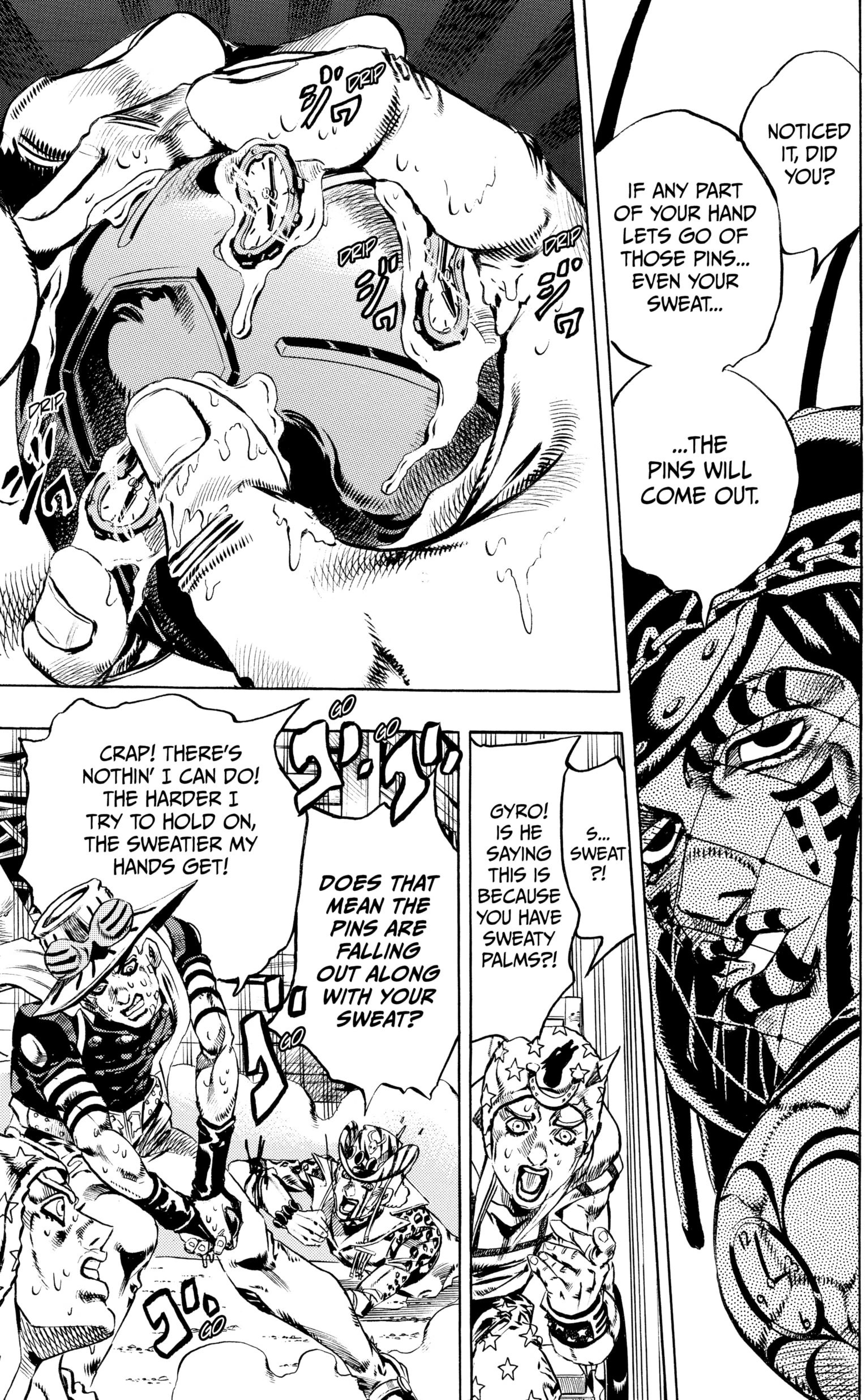
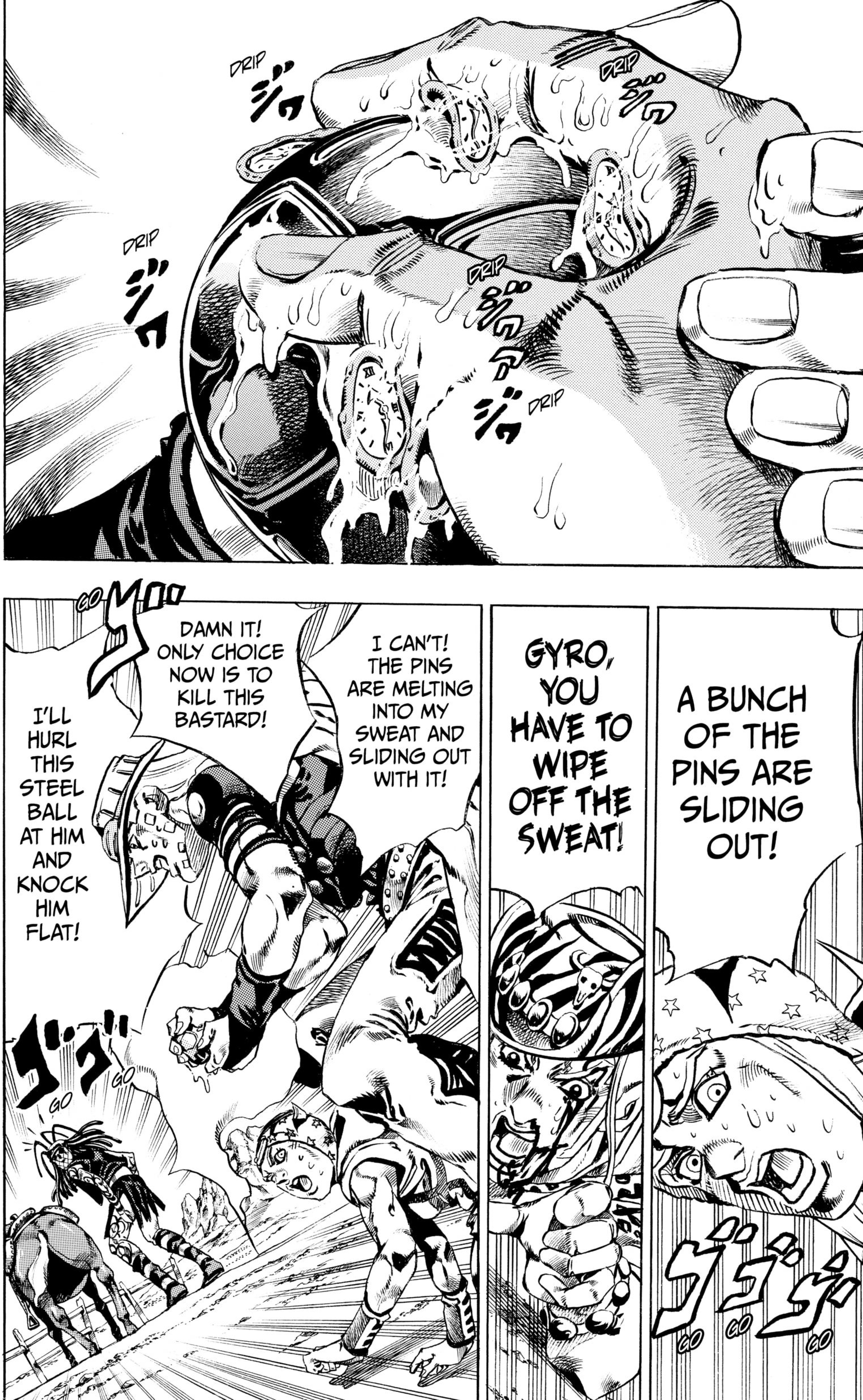
GWSH
ズブゥ
GWSH
ズブ
バギ
バギッ
SKSH
SKSH

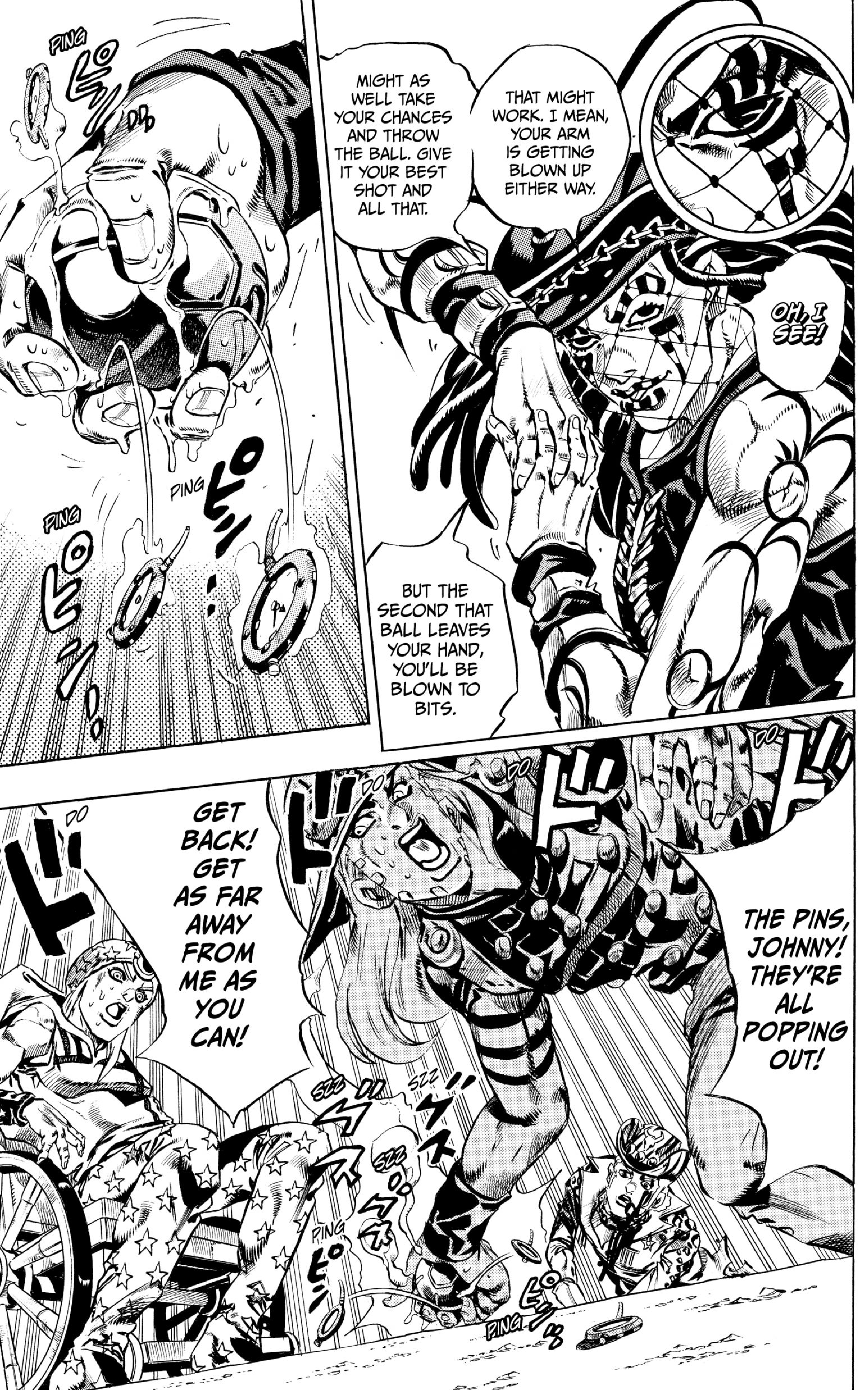

GASH
GASH
HE JUST PUSHED IT STRAIGHT THROUGH HIS PALM...
STRAIGHT TO THE OTHER SIDE OF HIS HAND...
DOOM
SNIK
HE DID IT! WITH THE PIN BACK IN PLACE, HIS HAND WON'T EXPLODE!
...
HORSE Inn


OH WELL!
NO SWEAT OFF MY BACK.
Y'KNOW, I HAD THIS ABILITY FOR FOUR WHOLE DAYS IN THE DESERT, BUT I'M ONLY JUST NOW FIGURING OUT THE FULL EXTENT OF WHAT I CAN DO.
AND NOW I KNOW. GOD'S WILL DOESN'T COME WITH A *WEAKNESS.*
WELL, GOOD LUCK HOLDING IN THOSE PINS.
WSH
ズッ
GYRO! JOHNNY!
DON'T LET HIM ESCAPE!
I'M NOT ESCAPING ANYTHING. IT'S OVER.
GYRO WON'T MAKE IT THREE STEPS. LIKE I SAID, I'M NOT SWEATING. NOT LIKE *HIM*, ANYWAY.


...
DRIP
DRIP
DRIP
DRIP
STAY AWAY FROM ME!
GET BACK, JOHNNY!
HUH?!

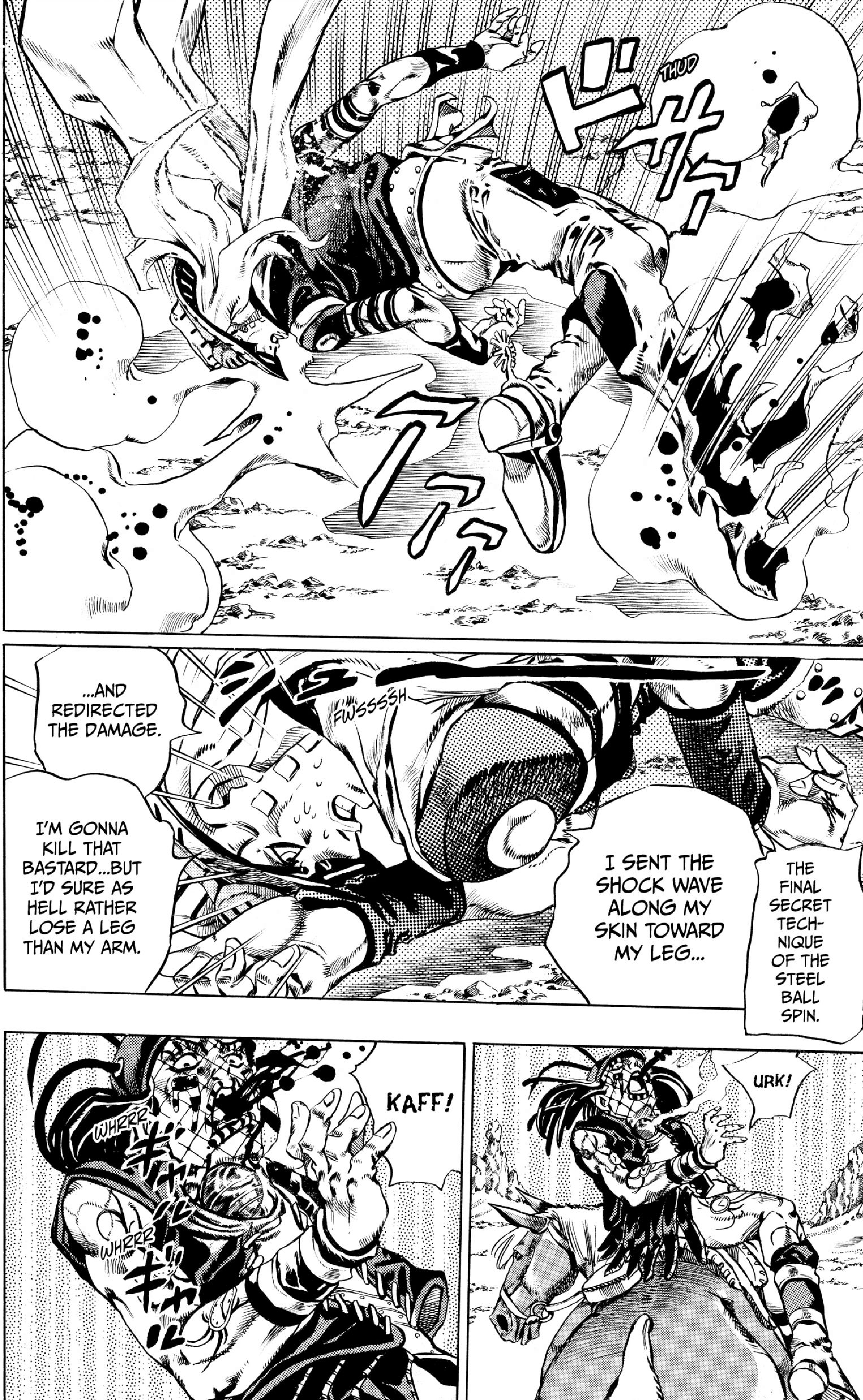

NOTICED IT, DID YOU?
IF ANY PART OF YOUR HAND LETS GO OF THOSE PINS... EVEN YOUR SWEAT...
...THE PINS WILL COME OUT.
DRIP
DRIP
DRIP
DRIP
S... SWEAT?!
GYRO! IS HE SAYING THIS IS BECAUSE YOU HAVE SWEATY PALMS?!
GO GO
CRAP! THERE'S NOTHIN' I CAN DO! THE HARDER I TRY TO HOLD ON, THE SWEATIER MY HANDS GET!
DOES THAT MEAN THE PINS ARE FALLING OUT ALONG WITH YOUR SWEAT?
GO
GO

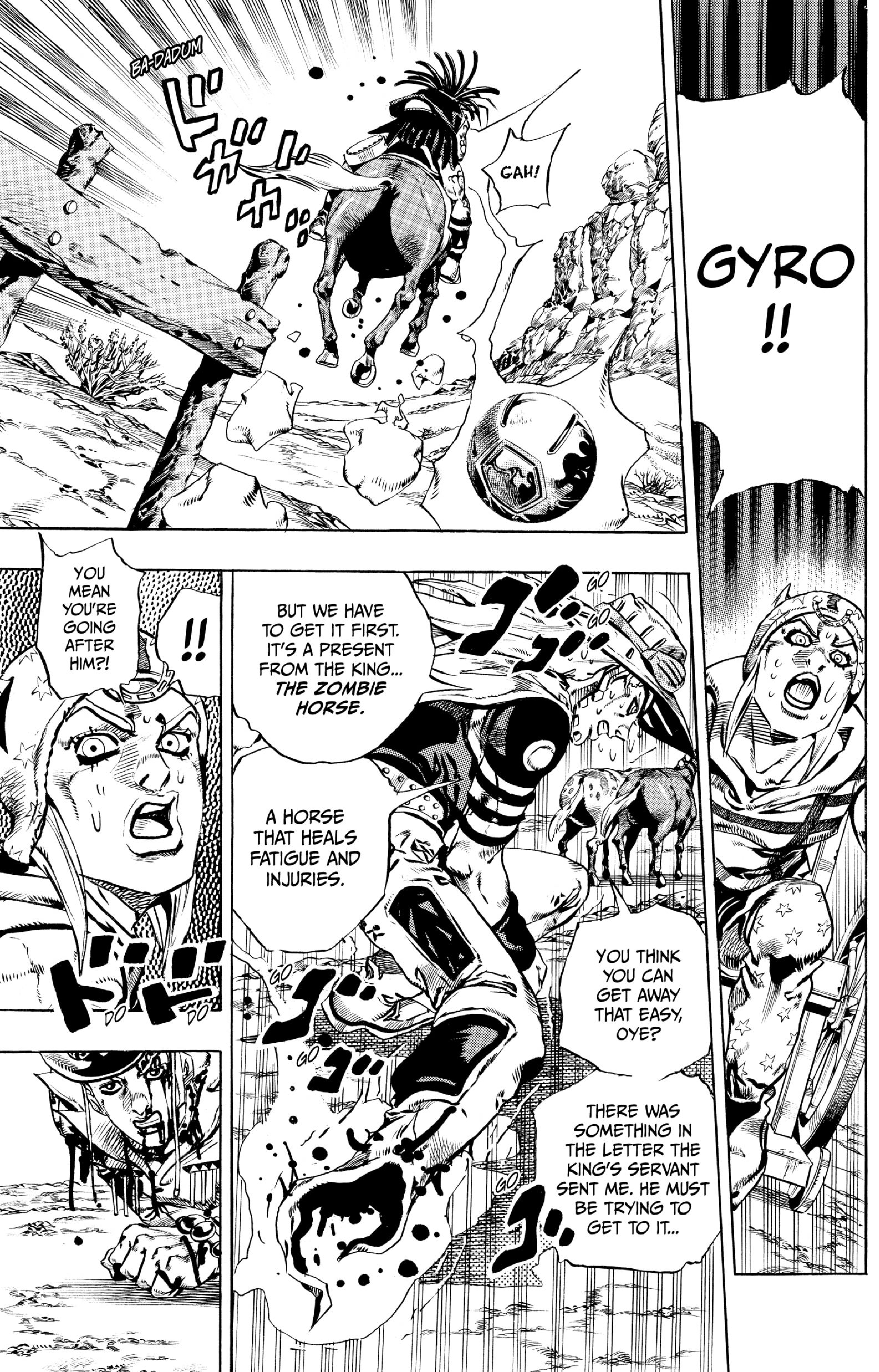

DRIP ジワ
DRIP ジワ
DRIP ジワ
DRIP ジワ
DRIP ジワ
A BUNCH OF THE PINS ARE SLIDING OUT!
GYRO, YOU HAVE TO WIPE OFF THE SWEAT!
I CAN'T! THE PINS ARE MELTING INTO MY SWEAT AND SLIDING OUT WITH IT!
DAMN IT! ONLY CHOICE NOW IS TO KILL THIS BASTARD!
I'LL HURL THIS STEEL BALL AT HIM AND KNOCK HIM FLAT!
GO ゴ
ゴゴ GO GO
ゴゴゴ GO GO GO

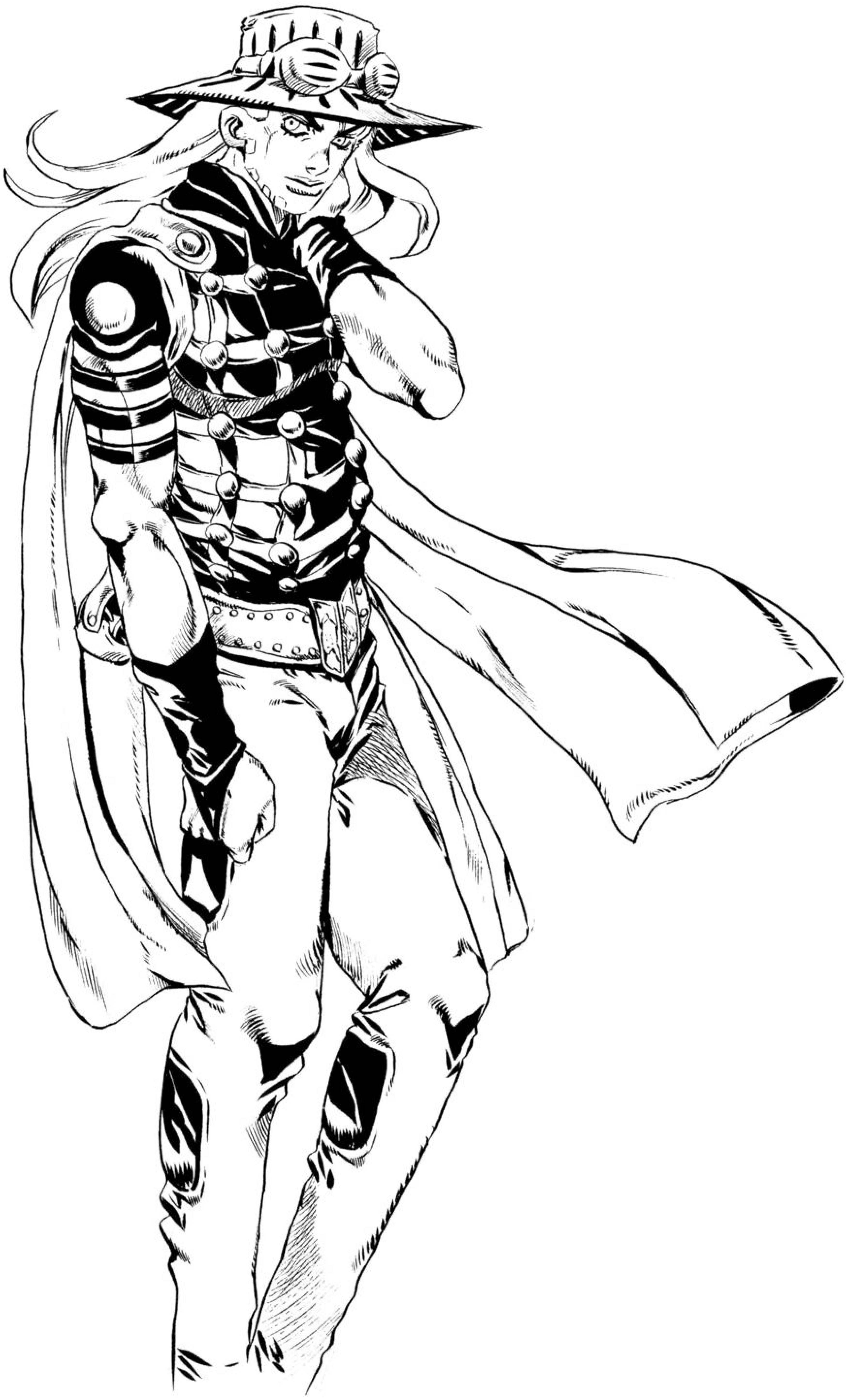

OH, I SEE!
THAT MIGHT WORK. I MEAN, YOUR ARM IS GETTING BLOWN UP EITHER WAY.
MIGHT AS WELL TAKE YOUR CHANCES AND THROW THE BALL. GIVE IT YOUR BEST SHOT AND ALL THAT.
BUT THE SECOND THAT BALL LEAVES YOUR HAND, YOU'LL BE BLOWN TO BITS.
PING
DD
PING
PING
DO
DO
DO
THE PINS, JOHNNY! THEY'RE ALL POPPING OUT!
DO
GET BACK! GET AS FAR AWAY FROM ME AS YOU CAN!
SZZ
SZZ
SZZ
PING
PING

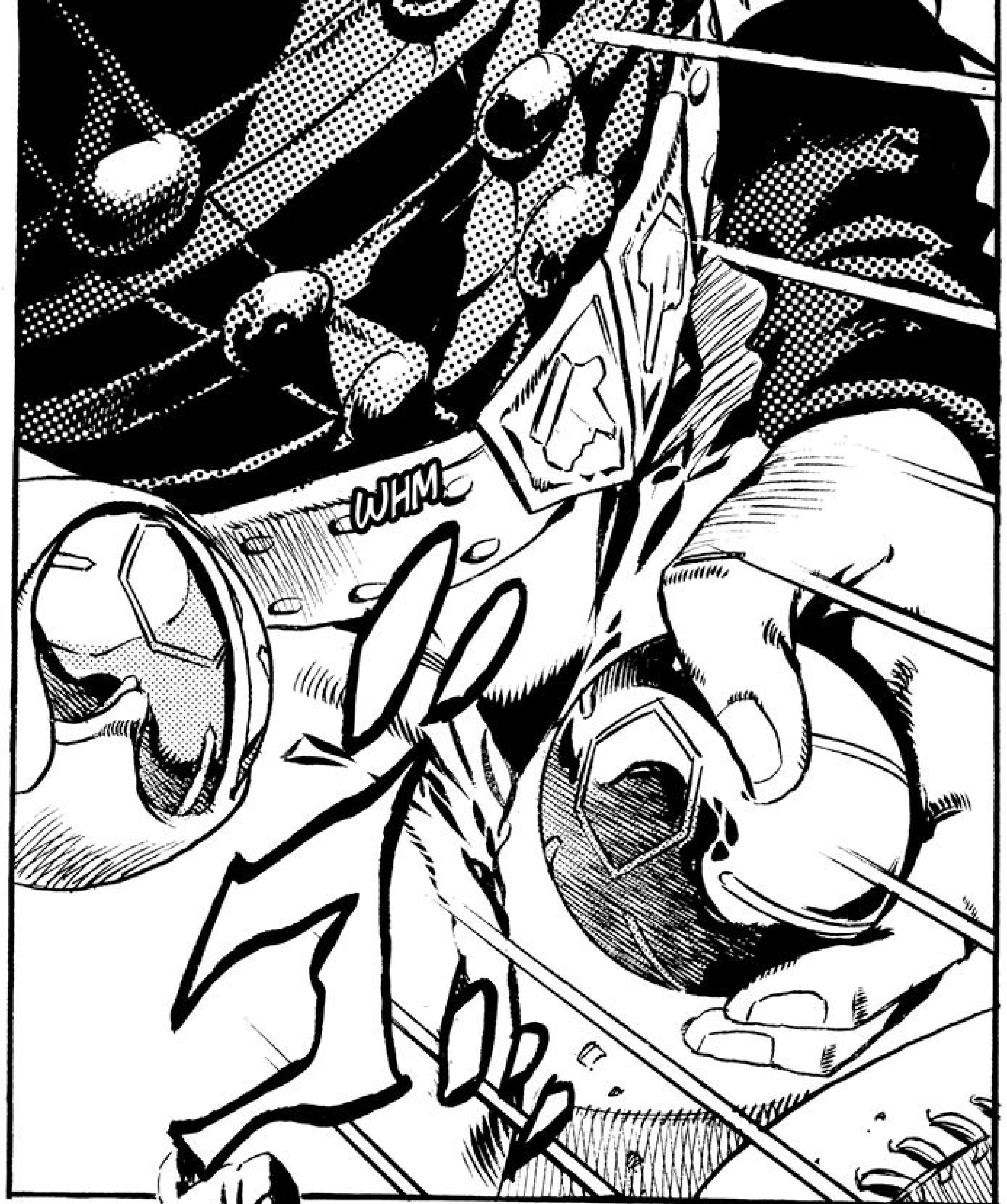
DO
ドドド
DO
GYRO!!
YA AAA AAA AAA AAA AH!
DO
ドド
SZZ
SZZ
SZZ
SZZ
SZZ
PING
ピシ
PING
ピシ
DO
ドドド
FWM
ORA AAA AA!
BOOM

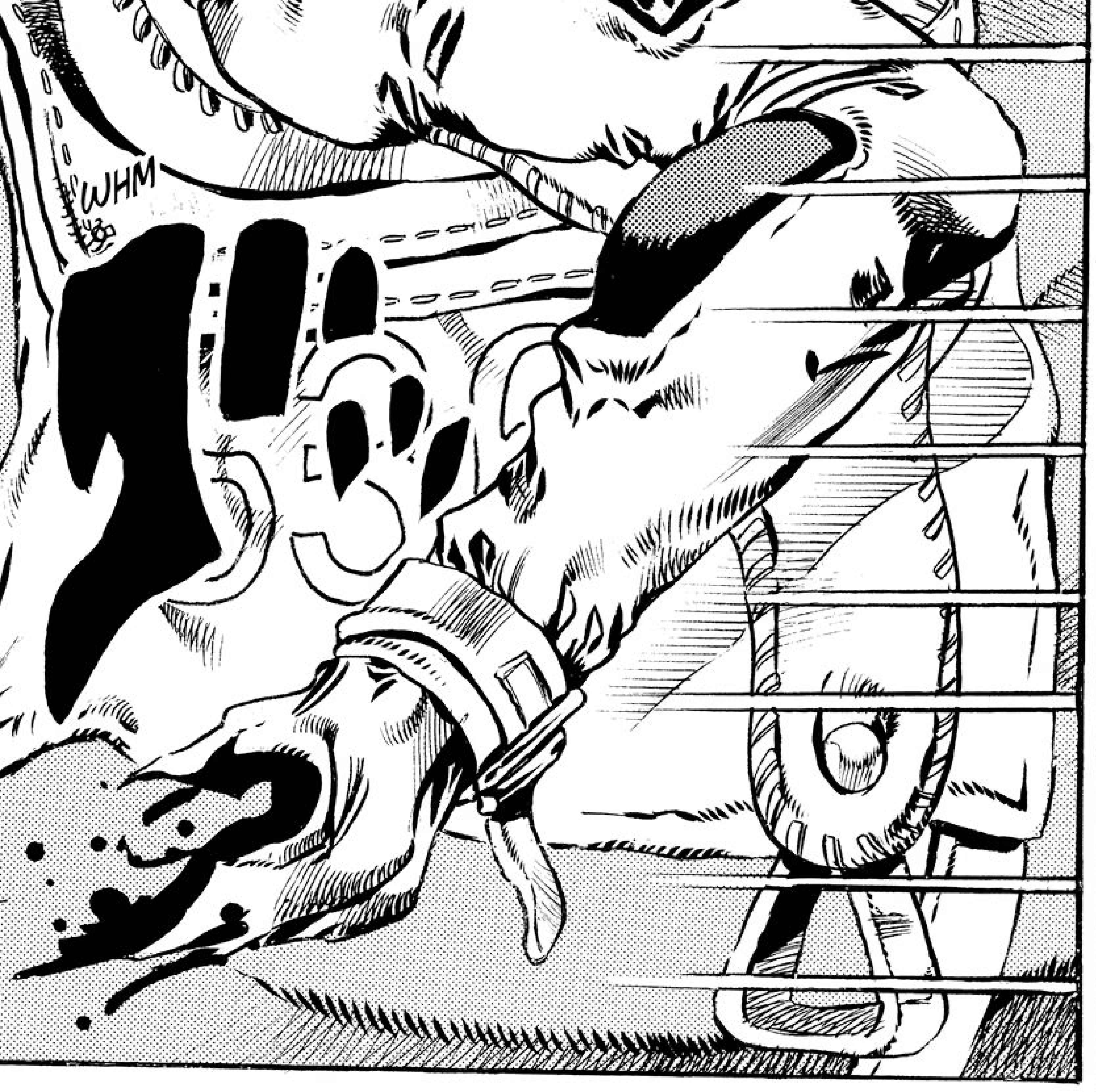
SKSSSSSH
バ バ バ バ バ
SHOOOM
ドグオオオオ
バ


ドサッ
THUD
THE FINAL SECRET TECHNIQUE OF THE STEEL BALL SPIN.
I SENT THE SHOCK WAVE ALONG MY SKIN TOWARD MY LEG...
FWSSSSH
...AND REDIRECTED THE DAMAGE.
I'M GONNA KILL THAT BASTARD...BUT I'D SURE AS HELL RATHER LOSE A LEG THAN MY ARM.
URK!
KAFF!
WHRRR
WHRRR


GYRO !!
BA-DADUM
GAH!
YOU THINK YOU CAN GET AWAY THAT EASY, OYE?
THERE WAS SOMETHING IN THE LETTER THE KING'S SERVANT SENT ME. HE MUST BE TRYING TO GET TO IT...
GO GO
BUT WE HAVE TO GET IT FIRST. IT'S A PRESENT FROM THE KING... *THE ZOMBIE HORSE.*
A HORSE THAT HEALS FATIGUE AND INJURIES.
GO GO
!!
YOU MEAN YOU'RE GOING AFTER HIM?!
DO DO

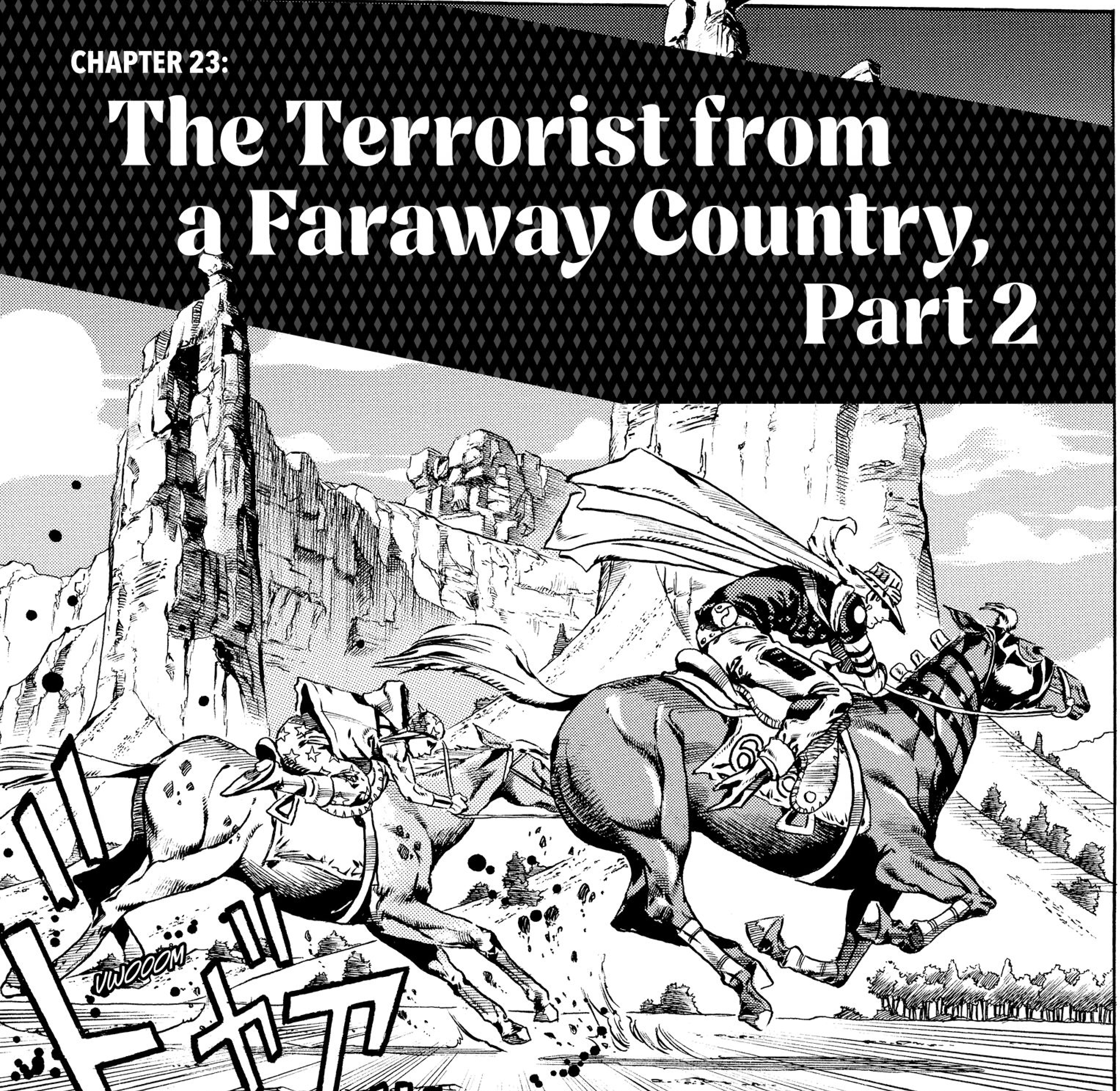




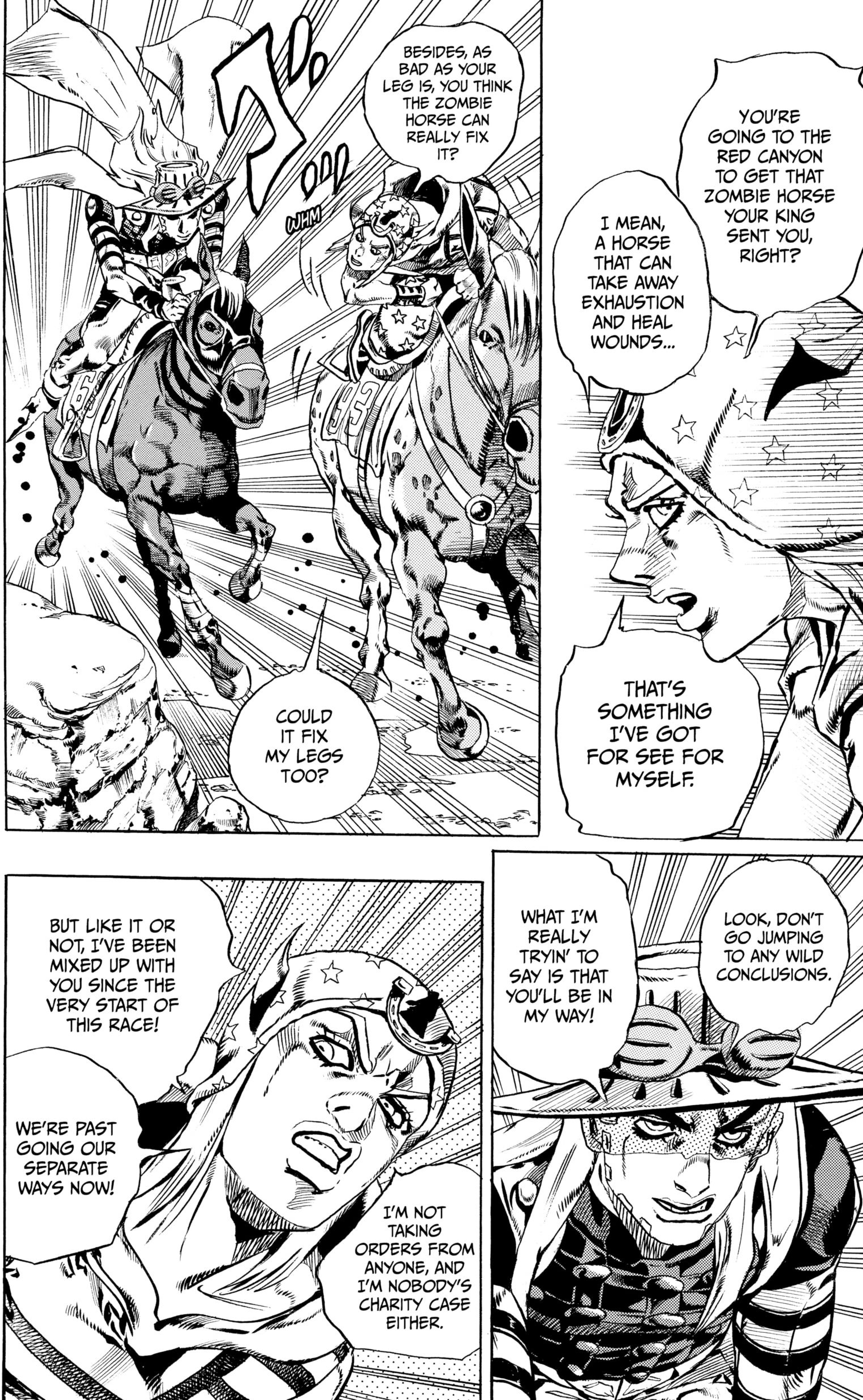


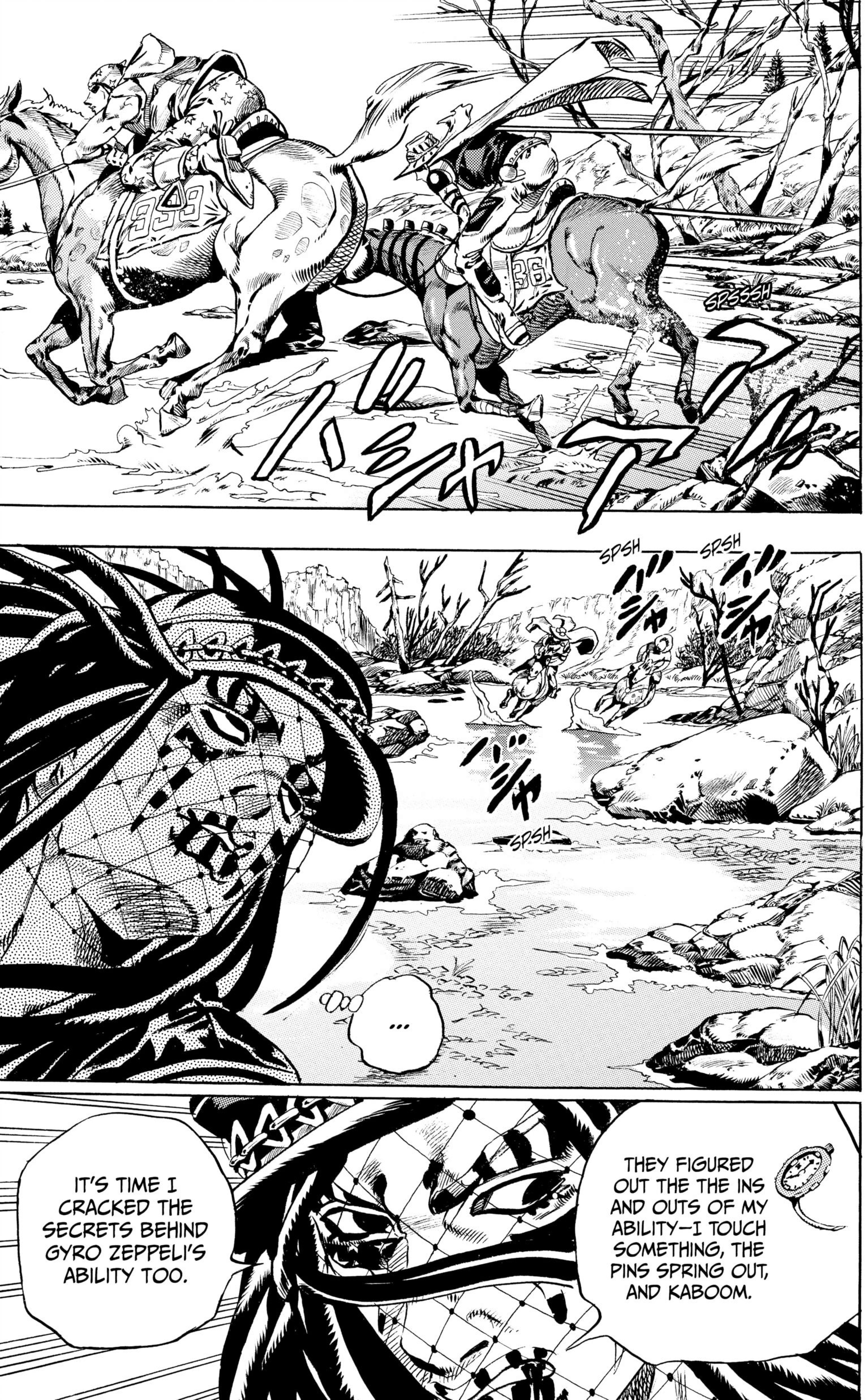
CHAPTER 23:

The Terrorist from a Faraway Country, Part 2

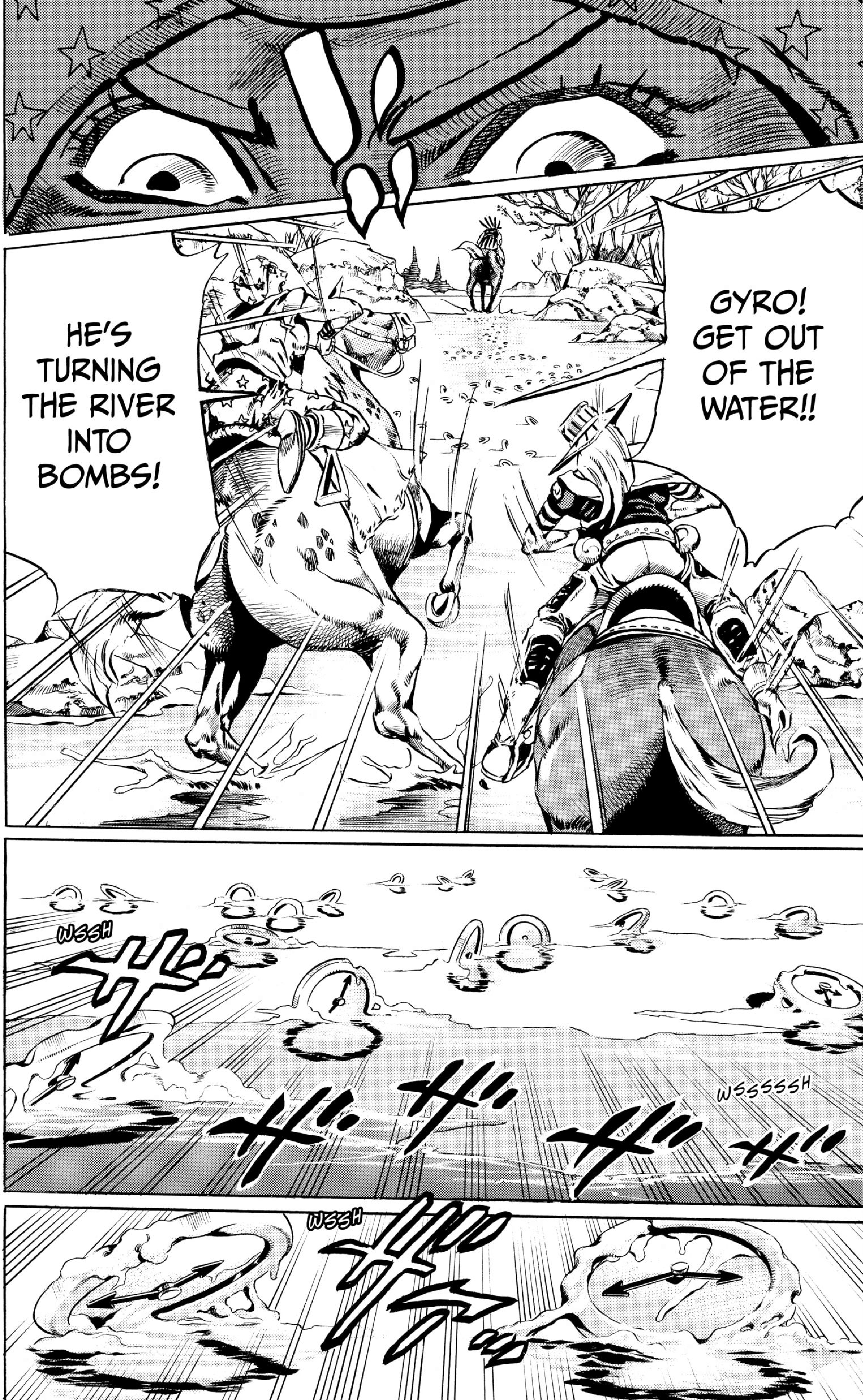


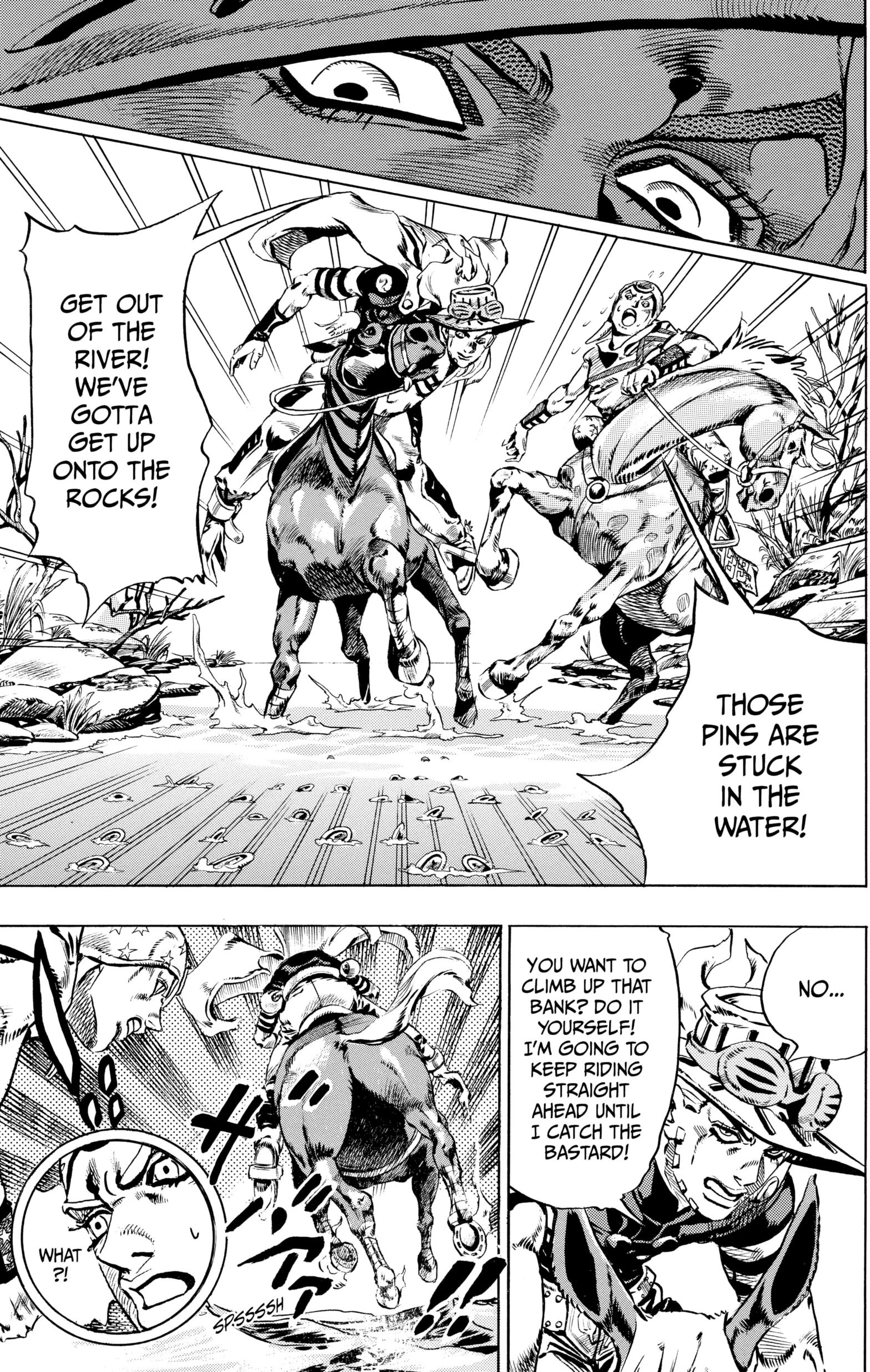
ドドド DO DO DO
JOHNNY! THAT GUY IS MY ENEMY!
I'M GONNA STOP HIM BEFORE HE CROSSES THOSE MOUNTAINS!
HE'S FROM MY COUNTRY, WHICH MAKES HIM MY PROBLEM! NONE OF THIS HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH YOU!
ドドドドドドドド DO DO DO DO DO DO
YOU'RE WRONG, GYRO...
OF COURSE I'M COMING WITH YOU.
ドガァ
VWOOOM
ARE YOU SURE?
THAT TERRORIST IS RUNNING AWAY NOW, BUT I'M TELLING YOU, THE DANGER IS FAR FROM OVER.
OYE IS THINKING THE SAME THING AS ME. HE NEEDS TO KILL ME JUST AS MUCH AS I NEED TO KILL HIM.

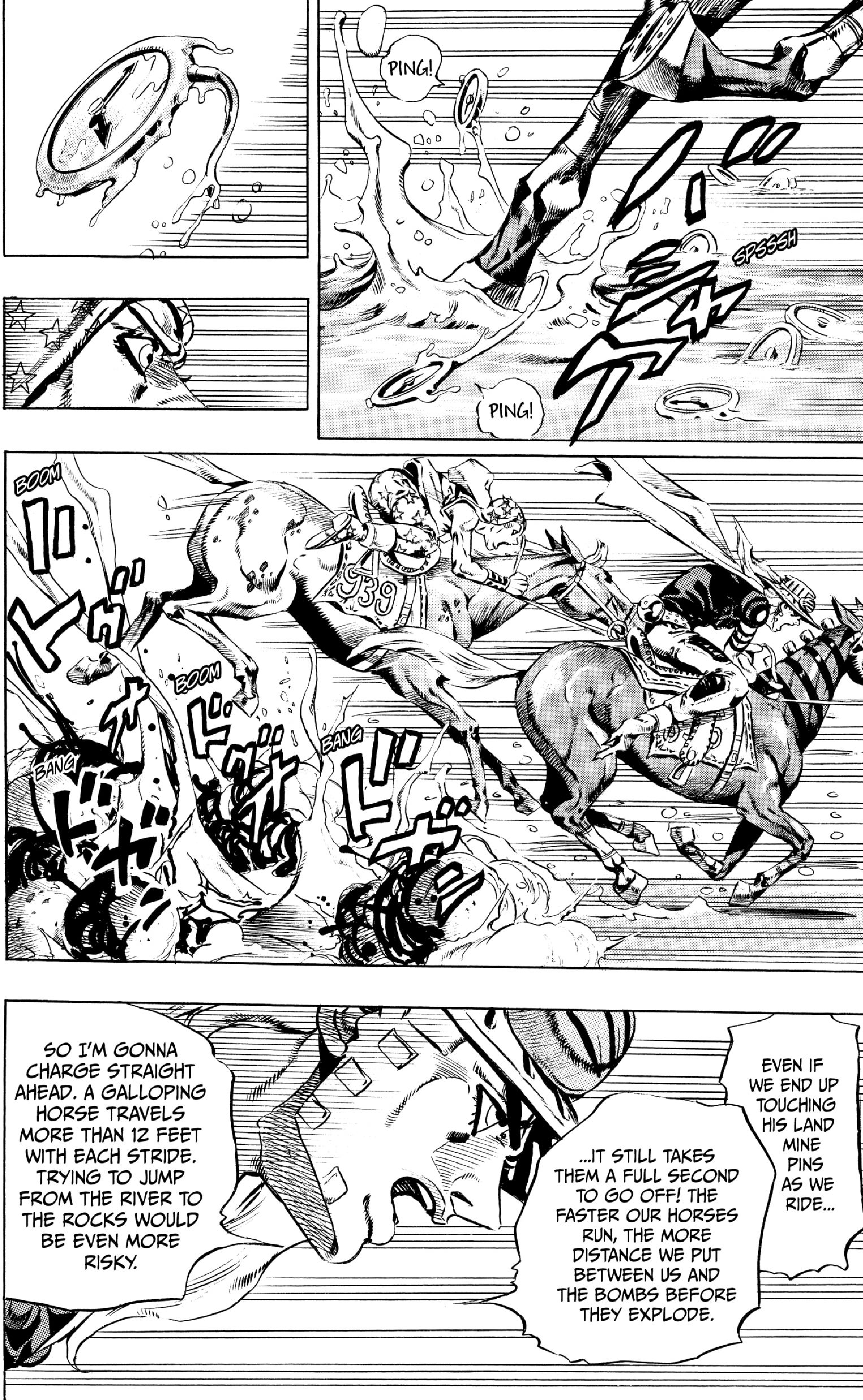

YOU'RE GOING TO THE RED CANYON TO GET THAT ZOMBIE HORSE YOUR KING SENT YOU, RIGHT?
I MEAN, A HORSE THAT CAN TAKE AWAY EXHAUSTION AND HEAL WOUNDS...
THAT'S SOMETHING I'VE GOT FOR SEE FOR MYSELF.
BESIDES, AS BAD AS YOUR LEG IS, YOU THINK THE ZOMBIE HORSE CAN REALLY FIX IT?
WHM
COULD IT FIX MY LEGS TOO?
LOOK, DON'T GO JUMPING TO ANY WILD CONCLUSIONS.
WHAT I'M REALLY TRYIN' TO SAY IS THAT YOU'LL BE IN MY WAY!
BUT LIKE IT OR NOT, I'VE BEEN MIXED UP WITH YOU SINCE THE VERY START OF THIS RACE!
WE'RE PAST GOING OUR SEPARATE WAYS NOW!
I'M NOT TAKING ORDERS FROM ANYONE, AND I'M NOBODY'S CHARITY CASE EITHER.

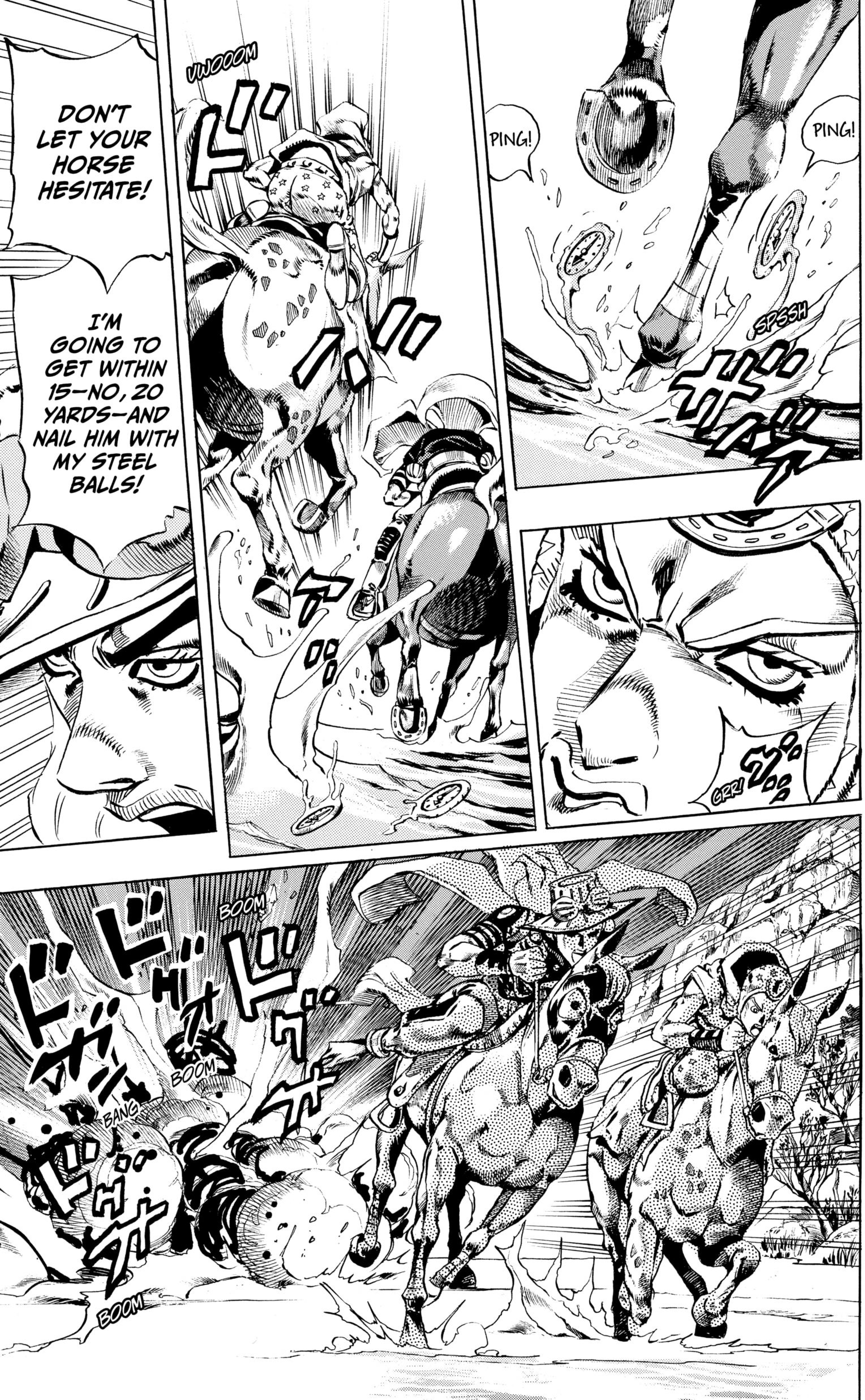

SPSSSH
バシャア
SPSH
バシャ
SPSH
バシャ
バシャ
SPSH
...
THEY FIGURED OUT THE THE INS AND OUTS OF MY ABILITY—I TOUCH SOMETHING, THE PINS SPRING OUT, AND KABOOM.
IT'S TIME I CRACKED THE SECRETS BEHIND GYRO ZEPPELI'S ABILITY TOO.

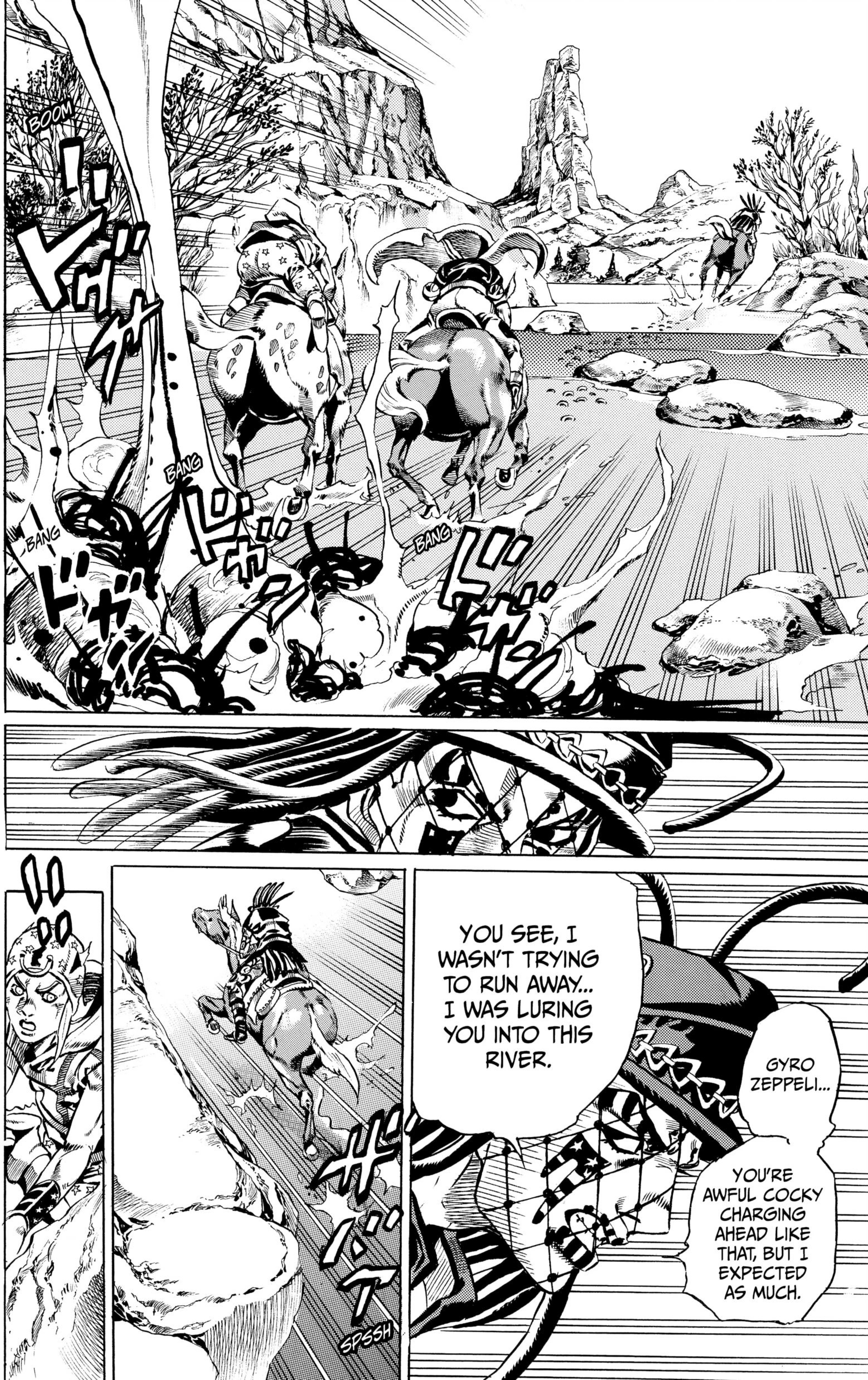
HOW FAR CAN GYRO THROW THOSE STEEL BALLS?
AT THE DISTANCE HE HIT ME IN TOWN, THE IMPACT MADE ME COUGH UP BLOOD, BUT IT DIDN'T KILL ME.
SO HIS RANGE IS, WHAT... ABOUT 20 YARDS?
IF HE'S ABLE TO GET CLOSER THAN THAT, I'M A DEAD MAN. BUT HITTING HIM WITH MY EXPLOSIONS WON'T BE EASY AT LONG RANGE EITHER. WHICH MEANS I'LL HAVE TO ATTACK HIM FROM JUST **OUTSIDE** HIS RANGE.
AND THIS TERRAIN... IS IT TO MY **ADVANTAGE**, OR MY **DISADVANTAGE?**
BLUB
BLUB
BLUB
BLUB
BLUB
BLUB
BLUB
SPSSH
バシャア
?
GYRO, HE'S POURING WATER FROM HIS CANTEEN...
BLUB
BLUB
BLUB

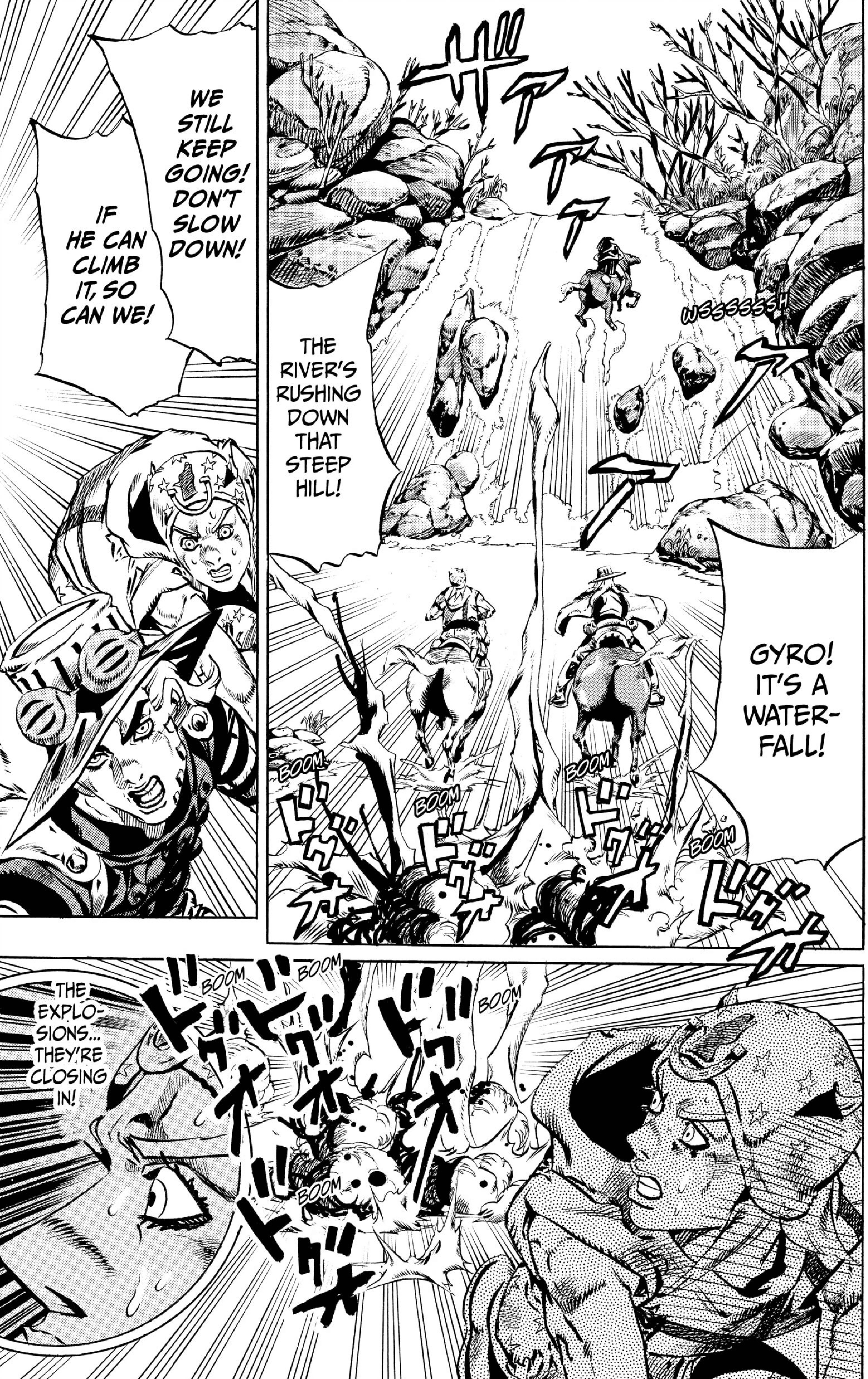

!
GYRO! GET OUT OF THE WATER!!
HE'S TURNING THE RIVER INTO BOMBS!
WSSH
WSSSSSH
WSSH

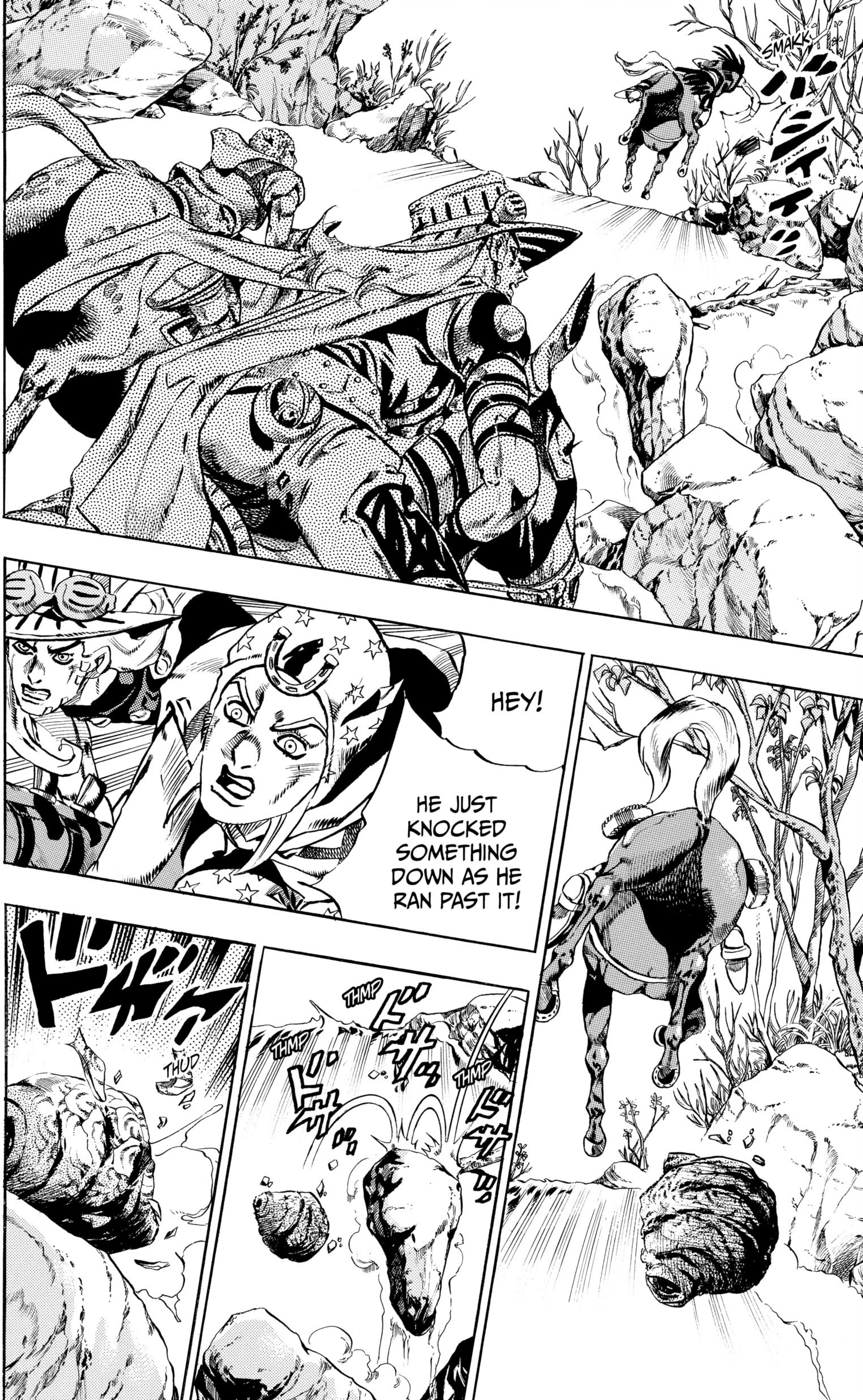

THOSE PINS ARE STUCK IN THE WATER!
GET OUT OF THE RIVER! WE'VE GOTTA GET UP ONTO THE ROCKS!
NO...
YOU WANT TO CLIMB UP THAT BANK? DO IT YOURSELF! I'M GOING TO KEEP RIDING STRAIGHT AHEAD UNTIL I CATCH THE BASTARD!
WHAT ?!
SPSSSSH

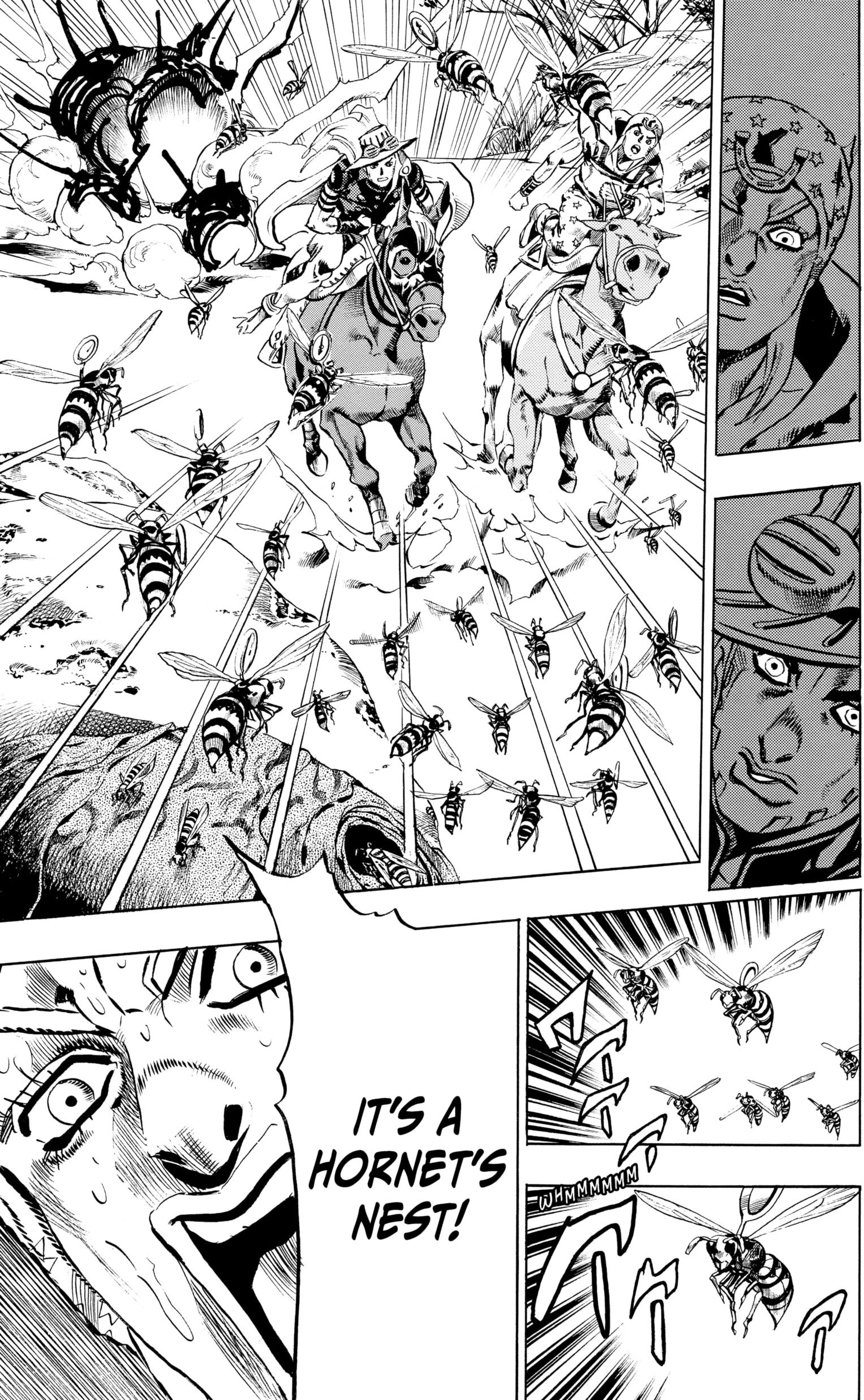

PING!
SPSSSH
PING!
BOOM
BOOM
BANG
BANG
939
EVEN IF WE END UP TOUCHING HIS LAND MINE PINS AS WE RIDE...
...IT STILL TAKES THEM A FULL SECOND TO GO OFF! THE FASTER OUR HORSES RUN, THE MORE DISTANCE WE PUT BETWEEN US AND THE BOMBS BEFORE THEY EXPLODE.
SO I'M GONNA CHARGE STRAIGHT AHEAD. A GALLOPING HORSE TRAVELS MORE THAN 12 FEET WITH EACH STRIDE. TRYING TO JUMP FROM THE RIVER TO THE ROCKS WOULD BE EVEN MORE RISKY.


PING!
PING!
SPSSH
GRR!
VWOOOM
DON'T LET YOUR HORSE HESITATE!
I'M GOING TO GET WITHIN 15—NO, 20 YARDS—AND NAIL HIM WITH MY STEEL BALLS!
BOOM
BOOM
BANG
BOOM


BOOM
BANG
BANG
BANG
GYRO ZEPPELI...
YOU'RE AWFUL COCKY CHARGING AHEAD LIKE THAT, BUT I EXPECTED AS MUCH.
YOU SEE, I WASN'T TRYING TO RUN AWAY... I WAS LURING YOU INTO THIS RIVER.
SPSSH


GYRO! IT'S A WATERFALL!
THE RIVER'S RUSHING DOWN THAT STEEP HILL!
WSSSSSSH
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
WE STILL KEEP GOING! DON'T SLOW DOWN!
IF HE CAN CLIMB IT, SO CAN WE!
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
THE EXPLOSIONS... THEY'RE CLOSING IN!


SMAKK
バシイイッ
HEY!
HE JUST KNOCKED SOMETHING DOWN AS HE RAN PAST IT!
THMP
ドッ ザッ
THMP
ドッ ザッ
THMP
ドッ ザッ
ドザァ
THUD

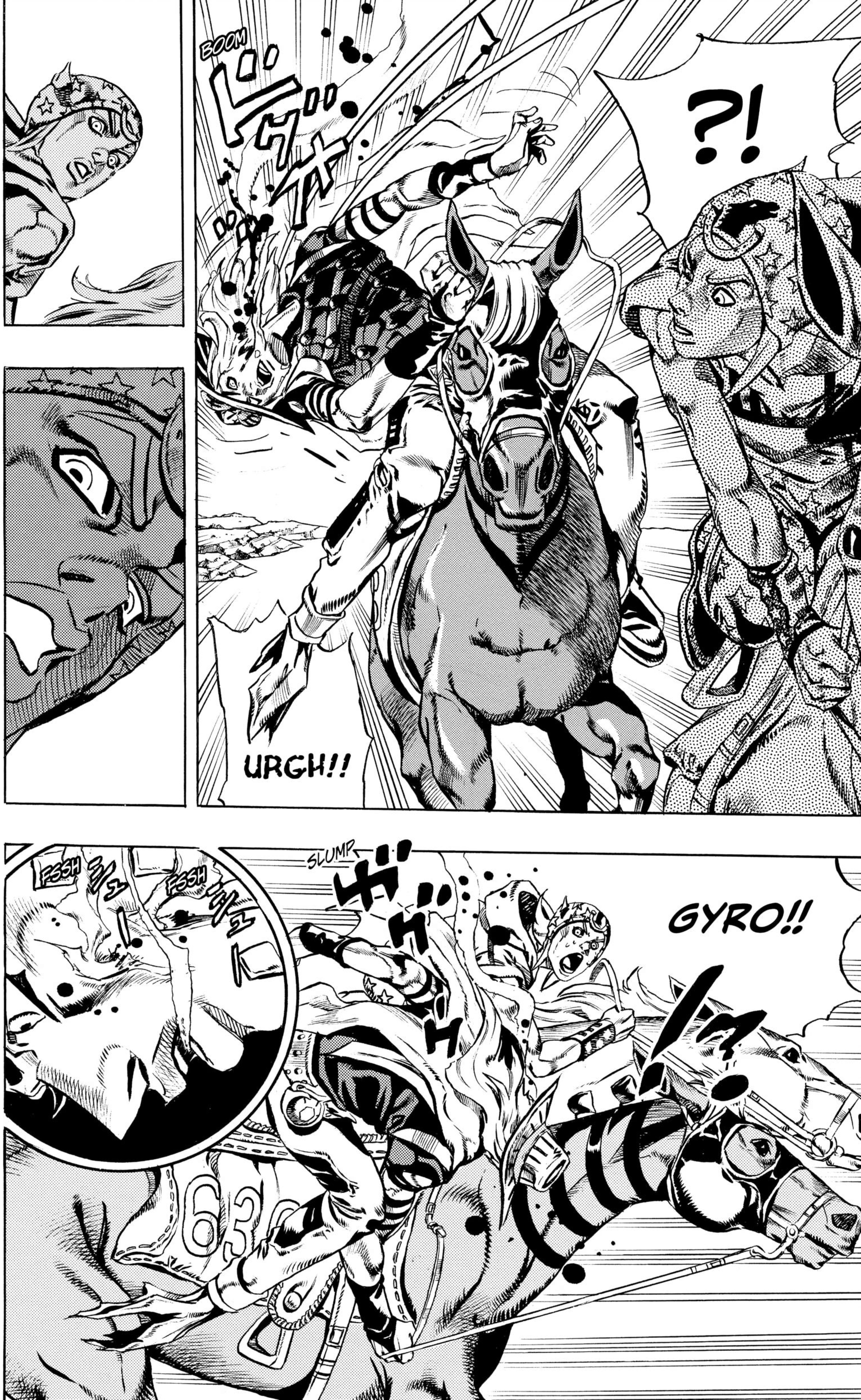

IT'S A HORNET'S NEST!
WHMMMMMM

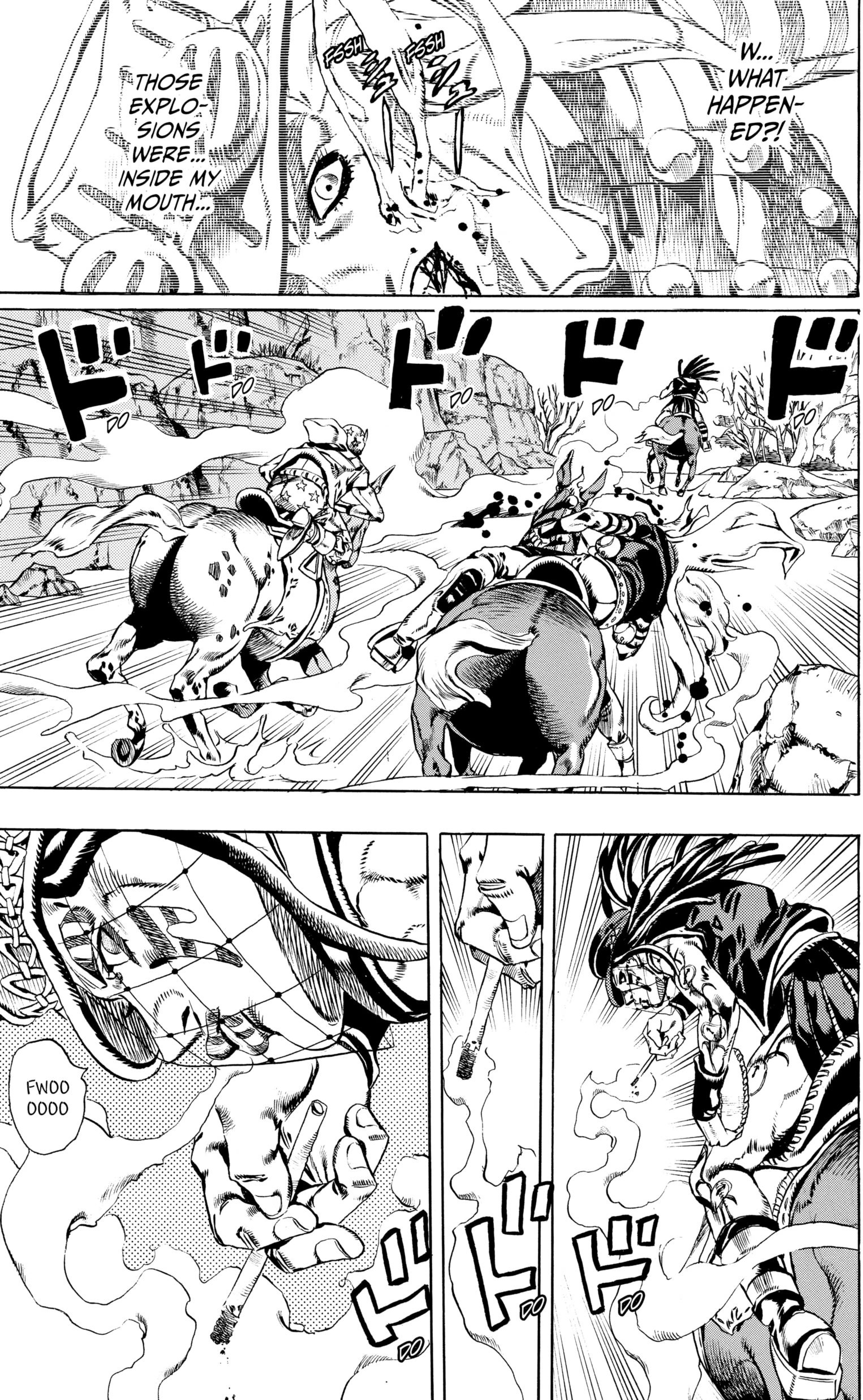
WHMM
MMM
THEY'RE ATTACKING US! AND HE'S PUT PINS ON ALL OF THEM!
I'LL TRY TO CUT THEM DOWN WITH MY FINGERNAILS, BUT I CAN ONLY GET THEM ONE BY ONE!
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
THE EXPLOSIONS ARE RIGHT ON OUR HEELS!
MMMM
DON'T SLOW DOWN, JOHNNY! THE ONLY WAY OUT IS THROUGH! I'M GONNA THROW MY STEEL BALL FROM HERE!
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM

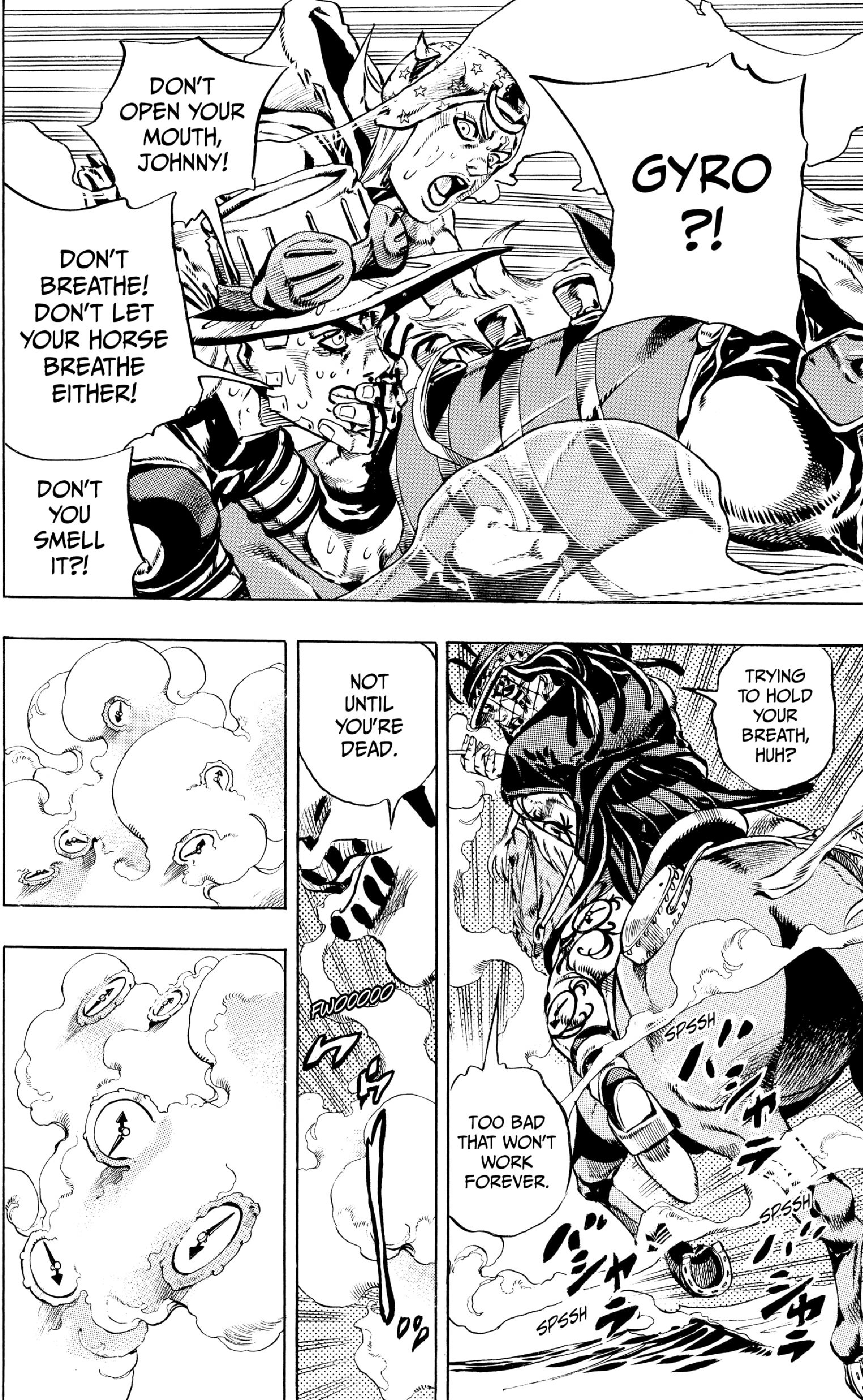
WHRRRRRRR
ギャルルルル
ORA AAA AA!
VWOOOM
ギャン
WSH
ドバ
I'M AT LEAST 30 YARDS AHEAD!
EVEN IF YOUR THROW SOMEHOW MANAGES TO REACH ME, IT WON'T BE ANY WORSE THAN LAST TIME, AND I SURVIVED THAT! MY BOMBS ARE BETTER THAN WHATEVER YOU CAN DO! WHEN THOSE HORNETS BLOW YOU UP, YOU'RE THE ONES WHO'LL BE DEAD MEAT!
42
FWM
ZWING
ギャン

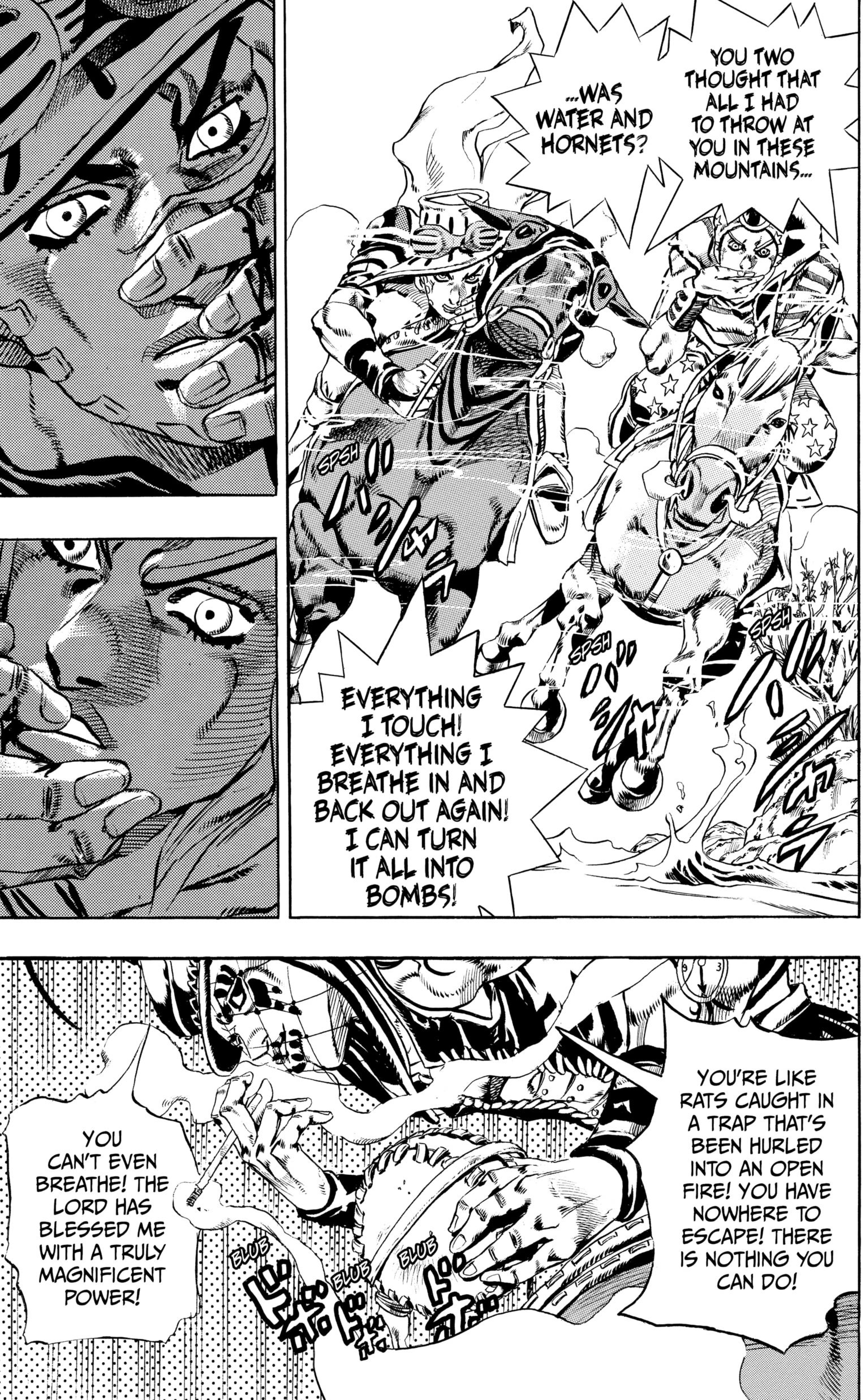
WHAT ...?!
!!
WHRRR
WHRRRRR
WSSSSSH
I GOT THE HORNETS WITH THE SPIDERWEB! COVER YOURSELF, JOHNNY!
PLAT
PLAT
PLAT
PLAT
PING!
PING!

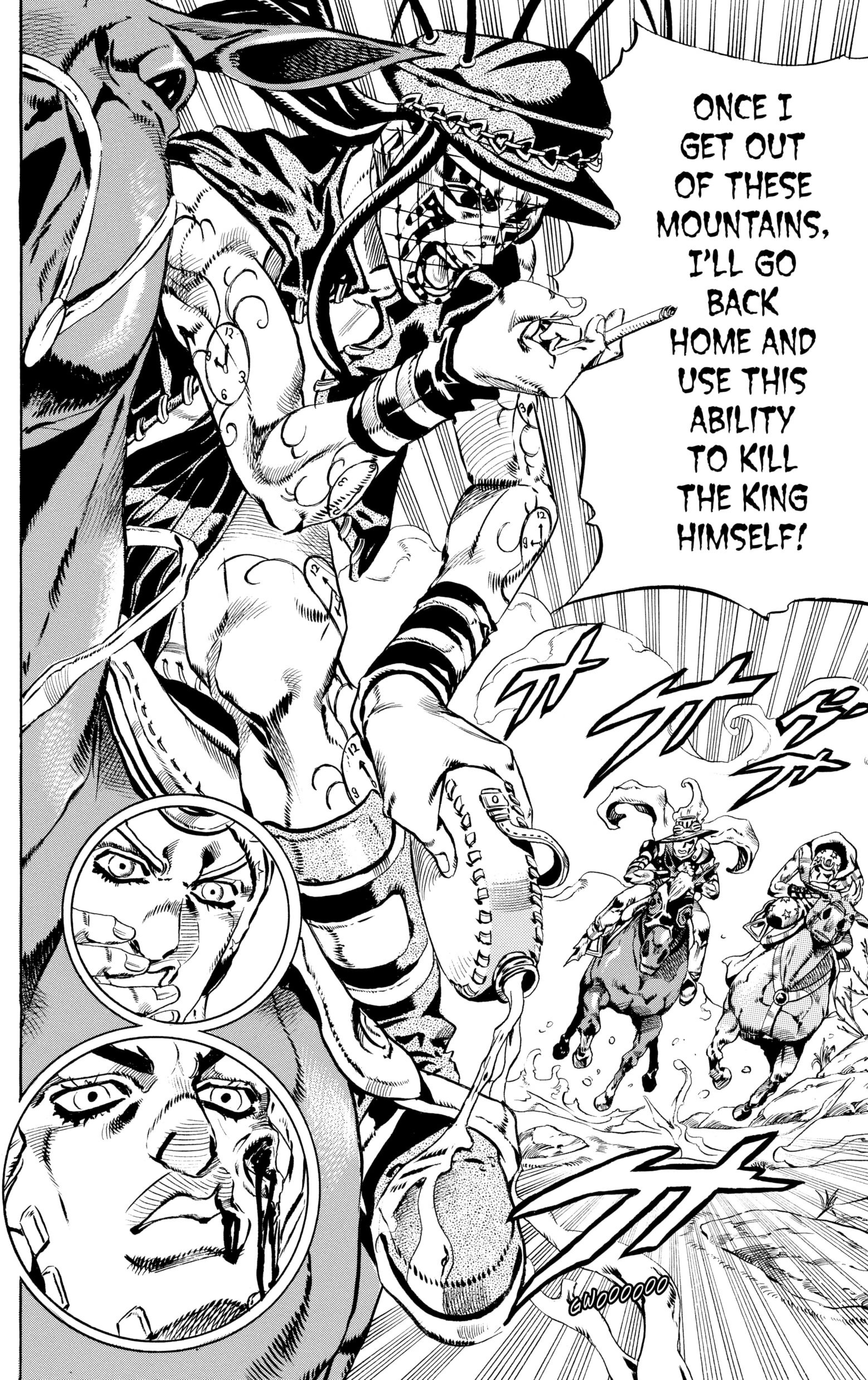
KA-BOOM
WSSSH
WE DID IT! WE MADE IT TO THE TOP OF THE WATERFALL!
BOOM
BANG
BOOM
BOOM

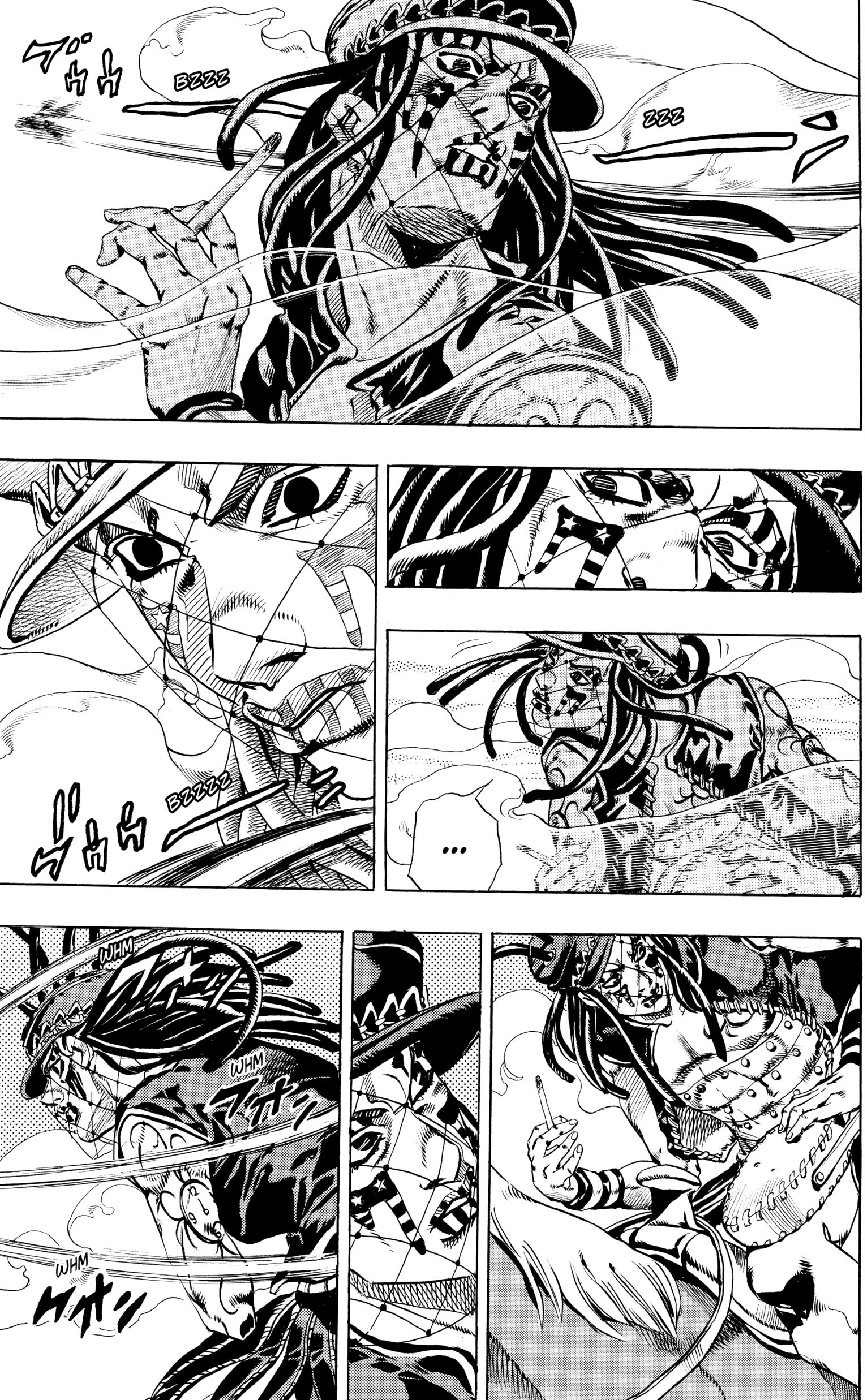

?!
BOOM
ドゥオ
URGH!!
GYRO!!
SLUMP
ガクッ
!!
FSSH
ジュ
FSSH
ジュー
63

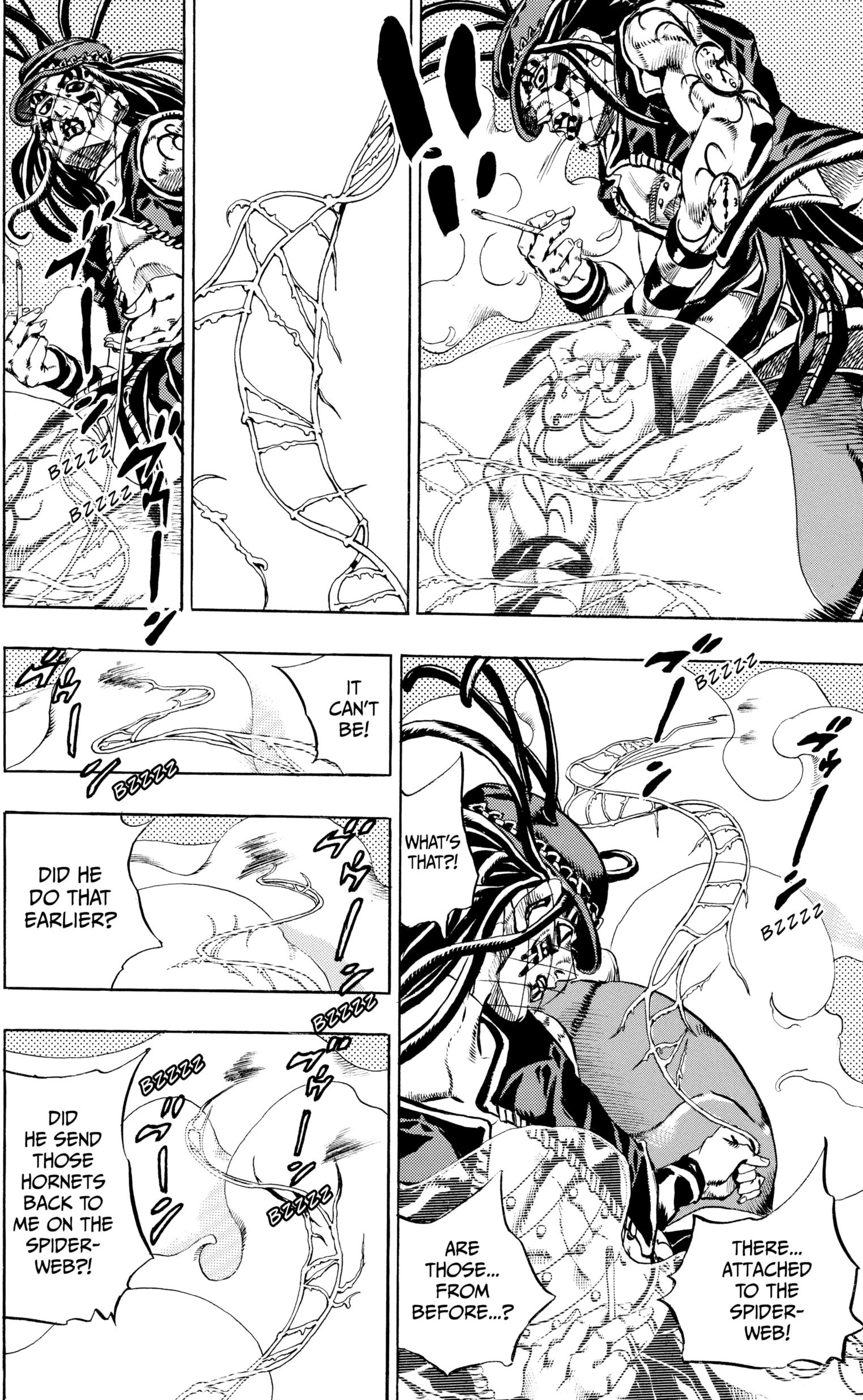

W... WHAT HAPPENED?!
FSSH
FSSH
THOSE EXPLOSIONS WERE... INSIDE MY MOUTH...
ド DO
ド DO
ド DO
ド DO
ド DO
ド DO
ド DO
FWOOOOOO
ド DO

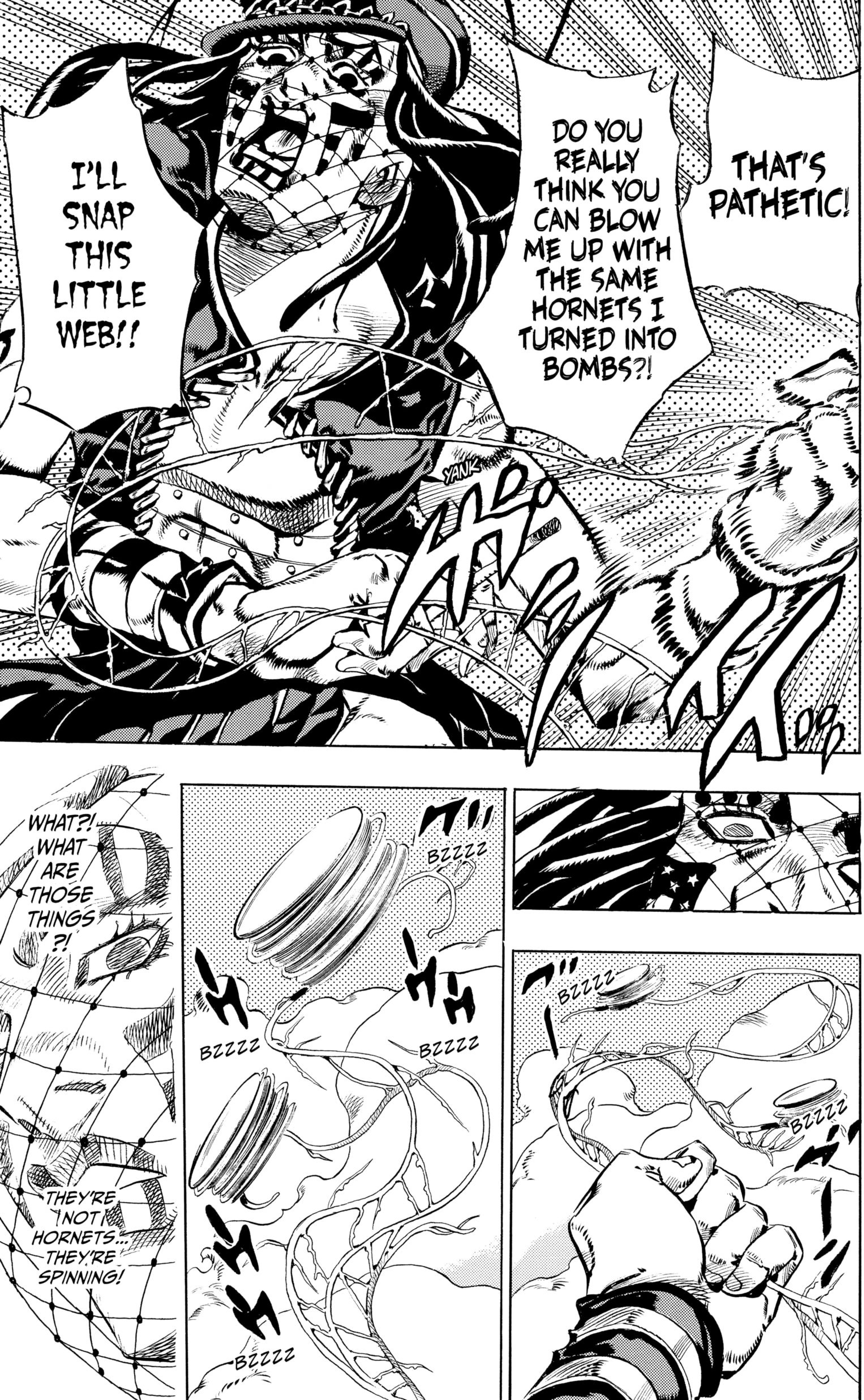

GYRO ?!
DON'T OPEN YOUR MOUTH, JOHNNY!
DON'T BREATHE! DON'T LET YOUR HORSE BREATHE EITHER!
DON'T YOU SMELL IT?!
TRYING TO HOLD YOUR BREATH, HUH?
TOO BAD THAT WON'T WORK FOREVER.
SPSSH
SPSSH
SPSSH
NOT UNTIL YOU'RE DEAD.
FWOOOOO

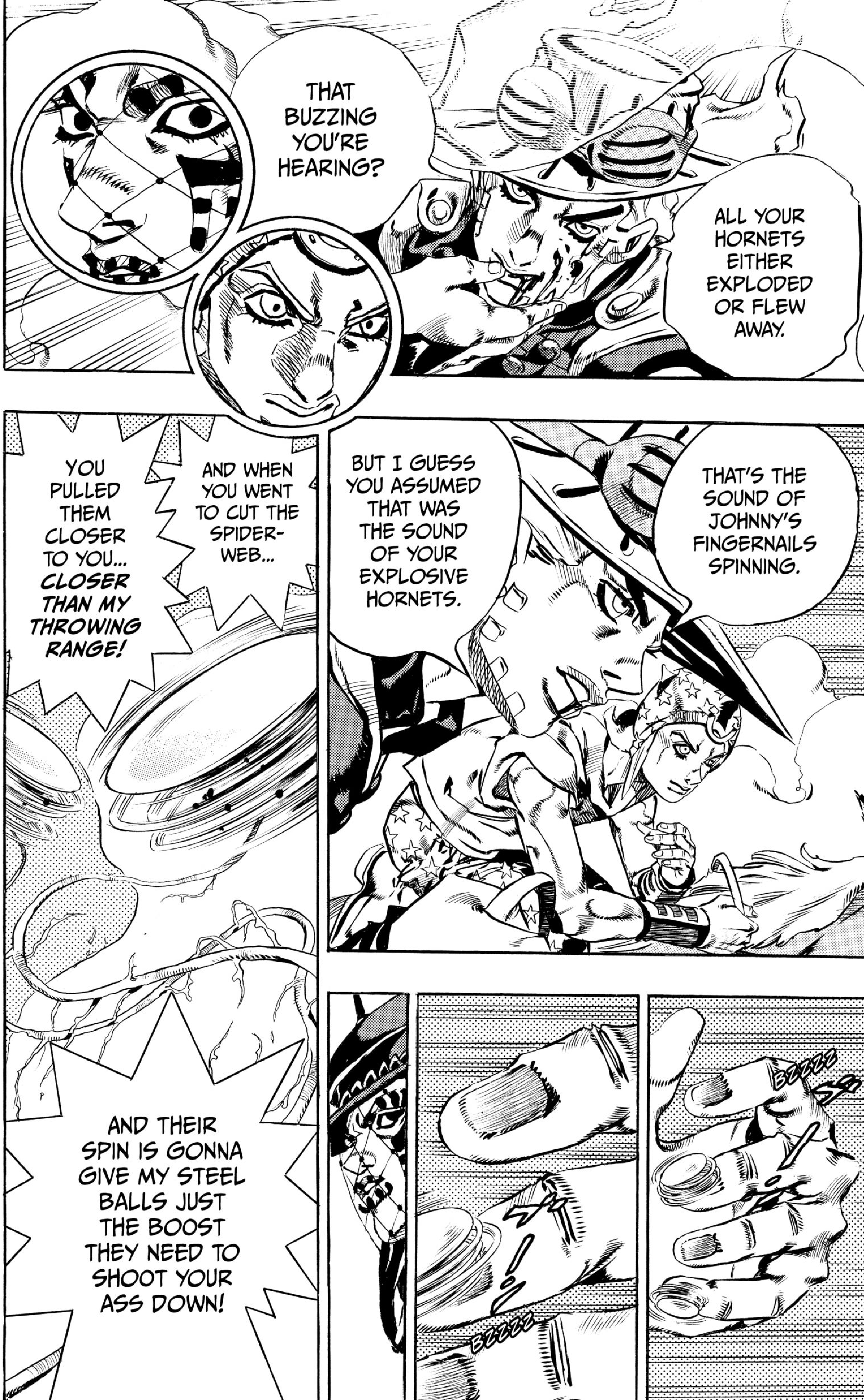

YOU TWO THOUGHT THAT ALL I HAD TO THROW AT YOU IN THESE MOUNTAINS...
...WAS WATER AND HORNETS?
SPSH
SPSH
SPSH
EVERYTHING I TOUCH! EVERYTHING I BREATHE IN AND BACK OUT AGAIN! I CAN TURN IT ALL INTO BOMBS!
YOU'RE LIKE RATS CAUGHT IN A TRAP THAT'S BEEN HURLED INTO AN OPEN FIRE! YOU HAVE NOWHERE TO ESCAPE! THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN DO!
BLUB
BLUB
BLUB
YOU CAN'T EVEN BREATHE! THE LORD HAS BLESSED ME WITH A TRULY MAGNIFICENT POWER!

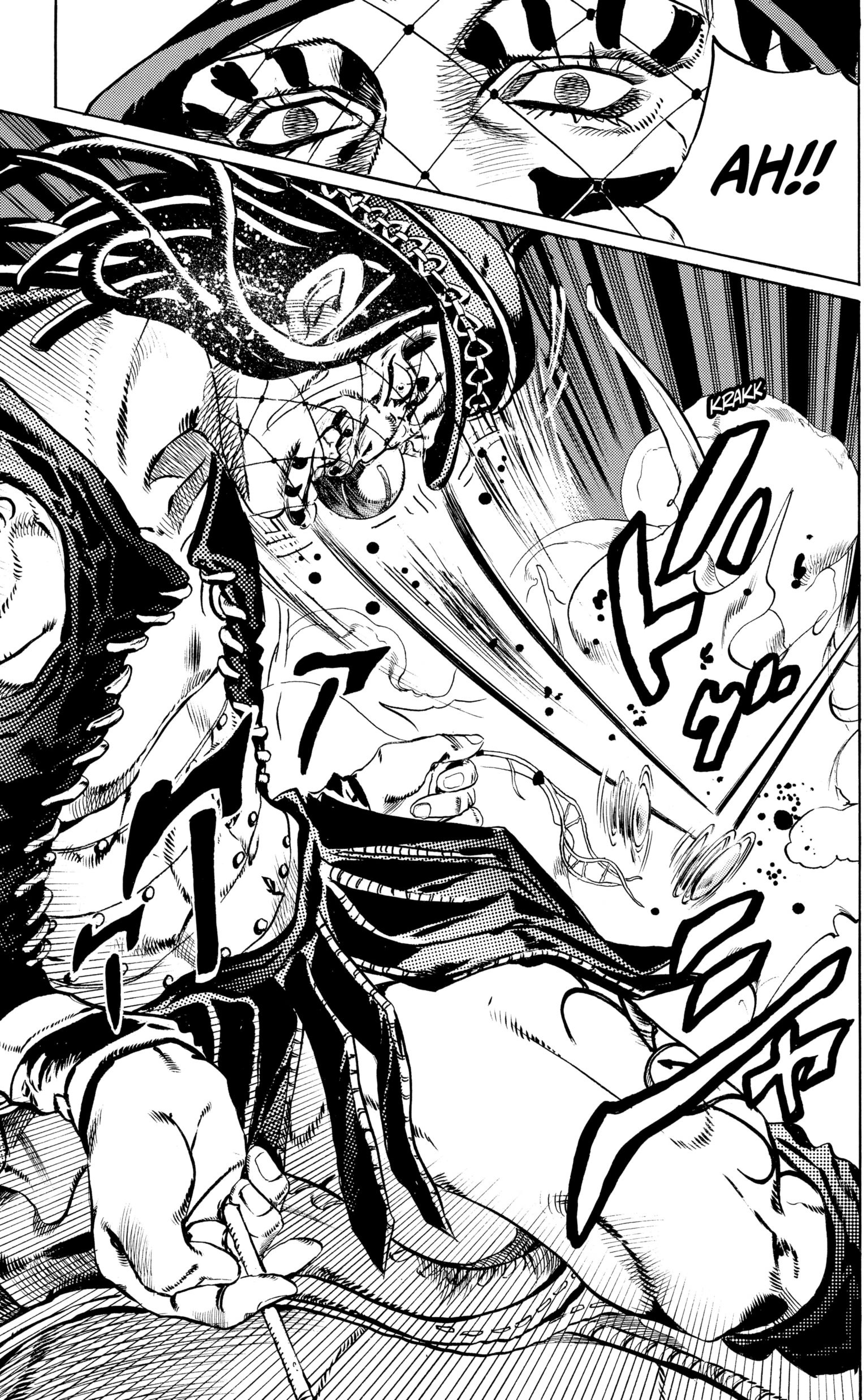

ONCE I GET OUT OF THESE MOUNTAINS, I'LL GO BACK HOME AND USE THIS ABILITY TO KILL THE KING HIMSELF!
CWOOOOOO


ZZZ
プゥゥ
BZZZ
...
ヴゥゥ
BZZZ
WHM
WHM
フォン
WHM
ヴォン

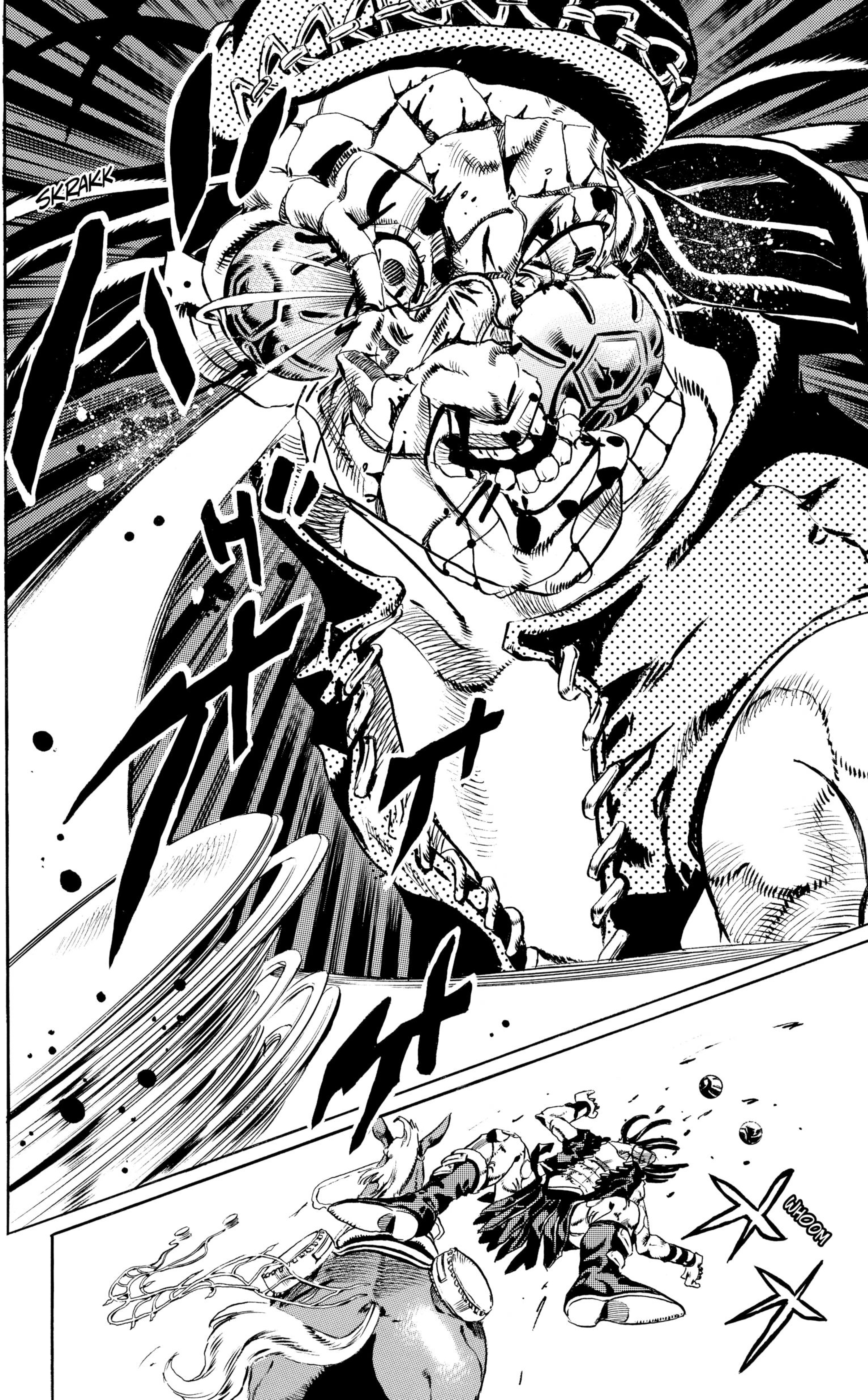

BZZZZ
BZZZZ
BZZZZ
WHAT'S THAT?!
BZZZZ
THERE... ATTACHED TO THE SPIDER-WEB!
ARE THOSE... FROM BEFORE...?
IT CAN'T BE!
BZZZZ
DID HE DO THAT EARLIER?
BZZZZ
BZZZZ
BZZZZ
DID HE SEND THOSE HORNETS BACK TO ME ON THE SPIDER-WEB?!

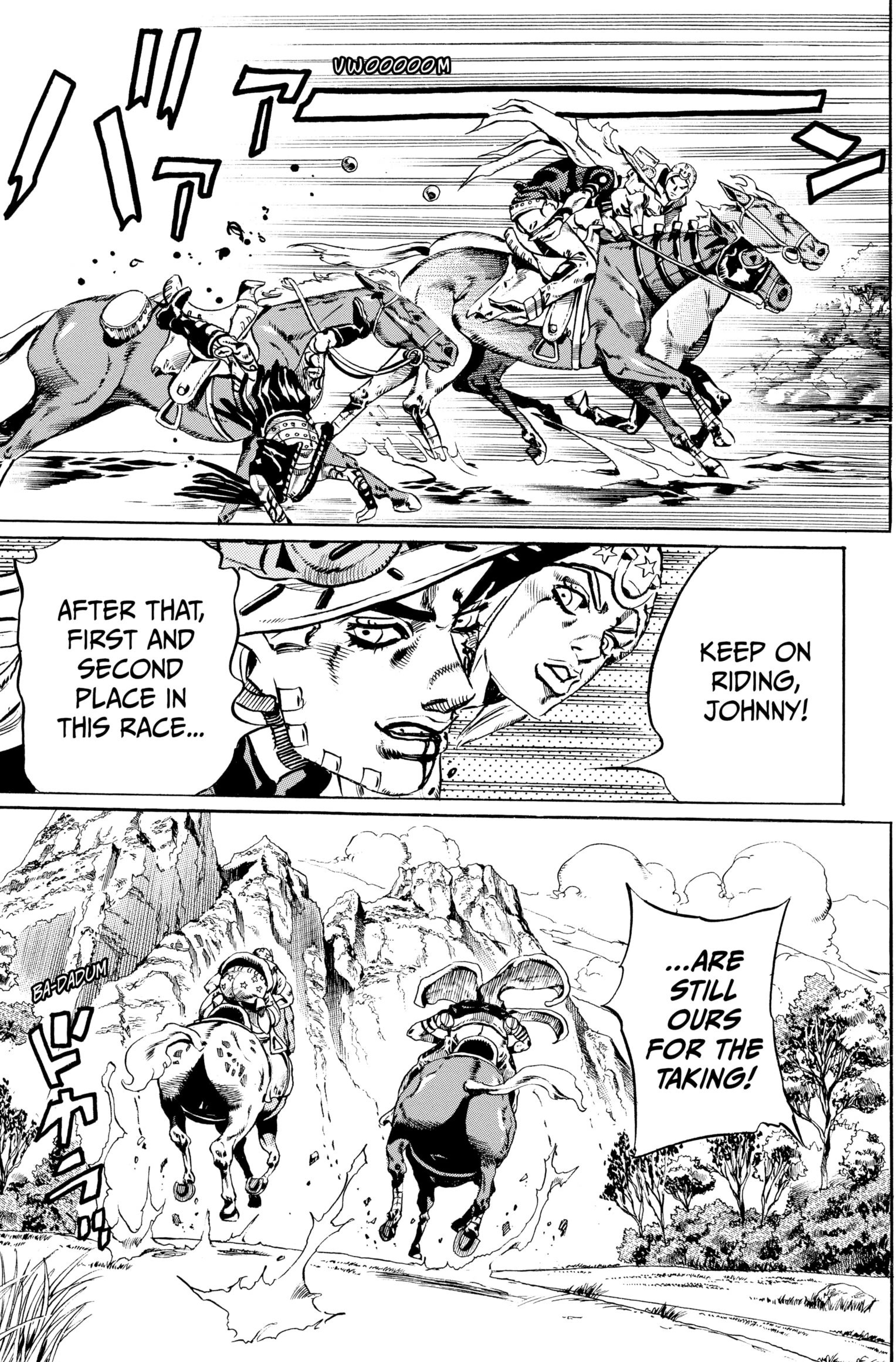

THAT'S PATHETIC!
DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN BLOW ME UP WITH THE SAME HORNETS I TURNED INTO BOMBS?!
I'LL SNAP THIS LITTLE WEB!!
YANK
BZZZZ
BZZZZ
BZZZZ
BZZZZ
BZZZZ
BZZZZ
WHAT?! WHAT ARE THOSE THINGS?!
THEY'RE NOT HORNETS... THEY'RE SPINNING!


ALL YOUR HORNETS EITHER EXPLODED OR FLEW AWAY.
THAT BUZZING YOU'RE HEARING?
THAT'S THE SOUND OF JOHNNY'S FINGERNAILS SPINNING.
BUT I GUESS YOU ASSUMED THAT WAS THE SOUND OF YOUR EXPLOSIVE HORNETS.
AND WHEN YOU WENT TO CUT THE SPIDER-WEB...
YOU PULLED THEM CLOSER TO YOU... *CLOSER THAN MY THROWING RANGE!*
BZZZZ
BZZZZ
AND THEIR SPIN IS GONNA GIVE MY STEEL BALLS JUST THE BOOST THEY NEED TO SHOOT YOUR ASS DOWN!


AH!!
KRAKK
ドシュ

URF!
HERE COMES ...
...ONE MORE!
AAAAAAH!
AAAAAAAAAAH!!!


SKRAKK
WHOOM


VWOOOOOM
バァアーーン
KEEP ON RIDING, JOHNNY!
AFTER THAT, FIRST AND SECOND PLACE IN THIS RACE...
...ARE STILL OURS FOR THE TAKING!
BA-DADUM
ドヵンッ

Steel Ball Run — To be continued...

Author's Comments

Something ball-related recently amazed me, and that's exercise balls. They're between 70 and 80 centimeters in diameter, made of synthetic resin, and filled with air. People say that by simply sitting on one and bouncing up and down, you can build your core muscles and even straighten your spine. Personally, I don't understand how a small movement like that can produce such results, and I'm a deeply skeptical person by nature. But when I learned that professional athletes used them, I accepted that exercise balls must work after all. People say that they can strengthen internal organs too.

* * *

I saw yet another ball-related thing that amazed me in an aikido video. A young man wearing a *hakama* approached an older man (maybe in his sixties, and apparently a martial arts expert) who was seated in a kneeling *seiza* position. For reasons unknown, the younger man firmly clasped the older man's head between his hands. Then the older man let out a grunt, swung his head in a circular motion, and sent his assailant flying more than six feet in the air.

The seated master had so effortlessly thrown the other man using nothing more than his head that I wondered if the younger man had faked it by jumping. But I don't believe a person would fake something like that in a videotape that cost more than 10,000 yen. I'd like to see how it would feel to be thrown like that myself (somewhere well-padded).

JOJO'S BIZARRE ADVENTURE – Part 7

STEEL BALL RUN

VOLUME 2
BY HIROHIKO ARAKI

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PARENTAL ADVISORY
JOJO'S BIZARRE ADVENTURE PART SEVEN: STEEL BALL RUN is rated T+ for Older Teen and is recommended for ages 16 and up. This volume contains graphic violence and some mature themes.

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